

**Evaluation
Asian Human Rights Commission and
Asian Legal Resource Centre**

2010-2012

Sida Programme

Report



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1. Introduction

This report contains the findings of the evaluation mission of the 2010-2012 Work Programme of the Asian Human Rights Commission and the Asian Legal Resource Centre.

The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) has been providing funding support to AHRC/ALRC since 1999. AHRC and Sida have been constantly exchanging views on how to strengthen a reflection and evaluation of AHRC's Human Rights work. In 2006 Sida initiated an evaluation of AHRC/ALRC's activities which affirmed the effectiveness and relevance of the work. In 2009, Sida and AHRC/ALRC entered into a new agreement on core funding support to AHRC/ALRC's 2010-2012 work programme. Also, Sida funded a consultancy to develop a results based management system and a monitoring and evaluation manual. The PME manual was completed in 2011 and is now integrated in the monitoring and evaluation process of the organization while refining the indicators is still an ongoing exercise.

This evaluation

The main objective of this evaluation is to provide AHRC/ALRC and Sida with an **assessment of the outcomes** achieved during the period of the agreement, which could be used as a basis for AHRC/ALRC to further develop its programmes for the next period as well as the lessons learned and recommendations for future strategic human rights work of AHRC / ALRC.

The evaluation is expected to assess relevance and effectiveness; assess the extent to which the expected outcomes of the work programmes have been achieved in terms of the result matrix and indicators set out in the PME Manual and the results matrix presented to Sida in November 2009; and make recommendations for AHRC/ALRC to further develop its work in terms of programs, focus areas, geographic coverage or any other issue that the consultant deem relevant.

The evaluation included in-depth interviews with AHRC/ALRC staff, including directors, programme desks and country desks; discussion with partners including skype discussions; study of documents including online materials. Three field visits involved interviews with victims/survivors, partners of the AHRC/ALRC, human rights defenders and other key informants. The evaluation undertook 13 surveys.

Key findings of the evaluation:

In the period 2010-2012 there is evidence of *significant outcome* in the key programme areas where AHRC/ALRC worked: Urgent Appeals, Torture Prevention and Legal and Institutional Reform, Capacity Building towards Human Rights Leadership, Communication and IT, Right to Food, International Human Rights Advocacy and the China Programme.

This conclusion is substantiated through a variety of indicators of outcome.

It is also confirmed through a systematic analysis of *perceptions* of the partners of AHRC/ALRC – victims and human rights defenders – in other words of *those who matter most*.

This evaluation has endeavored to, where possible and meaningful, assess *attribution*. The evaluation concludes that there is ample evidence that the outcomes can, indeed, to a considerable extent be *attributed* to the interventions of AHRC/ALRC and their partners – the human rights protagonists in Asia.

This report

The first chapter elaborates on the methodology of Outcome Assessment used in this evaluation. The next chapter provides a stepwise assessment of the key programmes of AHRC/ALRC. The methods used to assess programmes have differed from area to area depending on the nature of the programme, available sources, contextual differences, the capacities of the programme desk and last but not least time. The focus is on outcome, partners' perceptions, and recommendations. Efforts have been made to establish examples of 'highly significant outcome' for each programme. Conclusions and recommendations are 'woven into the text'. The last chapter summarizes conclusions and provides a few additional recommendations. Annexes are many, to keep the actual report as concise as possible. The report includes many references to substantiate the findings to a maximum extent. Quotations and case studies will be found throughout. Figures want visualize the findings.

Acknowledgements

I wish to thank AHRC/ALRC for the efforts undertaken for this evaluation mission. The staff made excellent presentations and provided background information whenever I asked for more data. In particular I wish to express my gratitude to Danilo Reyes (Philippine desk) and Baseer Naweed (Pakistan desk) for organizing the field visits in an excellent way and for travelling with me and accompanying me in many meetings and interviews. I would like to thank the support staff of AHRC, in particular Louise Sun. I wish to thank Liza Rowena Perdon who helped making the beautiful figures of this report.

A special word of thanks goes to Wong Kai Shing, executive director of AHRC/ALRC, for the way he has organised the evaluation and joined me on the mission to China.

I am grateful to the partners I met in the field: the victims-survivors, human rights defenders; some of them having travelled more than a day to meet me. I am grateful for the confidence they have given me and for sharing their views and their perceptions. The statements they made – some of them quoted in this report – are jewels.

The victims and human rights defenders - all of them deserve the unabated support of the AHRC/ALRC, their donors and the international community in their quest for justice.

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2. Evaluation Methodology

Outcome Assessment of Human Rights interventions is a dynamic field that requires ongoing efforts in terms of methodology¹. Each evaluation can be seen as a building block towards solidifying its foundations. One of the challenges is to avoid reductionist simplifications².

Prior to this evaluation the evaluator wrote an inception report specifying the proposed evaluation methodology.

This assessment made use of Evaluation Methodology Frameworks developed for the humanitarian sector and the field of human rights.³

This assessment used a qualitative evaluation approach. Quantitative information has been used to a lesser extent.⁴ Maximum efforts have been made to crosscheck findings from various sources so as to triangulate data.

The evaluator would like to perceive this assessment as a “valuation mission” rather than an “evaluation mission”.

Focus on Outcome

In the results-chain ‘input-output-outcome-impact’, evaluation of Human Rights programmes will generally focus on *Outcome*.

Output assessments are typically suitable for project evaluation purposes but their scope is limited to ‘tangible’ outputs that are governed by SMART indicators.

Impact assessment is only meaningful once a certain period of time has passed since the finalisation of the programme and requires a more ambitious evaluation approach; an evaluation may however include reflections on the likeliness of sustained impact.

The attribution factor

A focus on outcome catches credible linkages between the action and the eventual effect in a relatively short timeframe. Human Rights projects aim at non-tangible outcomes that can be achieved only in interaction with other development interventions and other actors - interventions with large components of advocacy, capacity building, and partnership building.

For Outcome Evaluations of Human Rights programmes a methodological approach to address the attribution factor is a *sine qua non*-condition. This is particularly urgent in the context of the non-Rule-of-Law countries with deteriorating human rights contexts where the AHRC/ALRC programmes are operating. For example, in case of a torture prevention project, where there is a major breakthrough in the area of prevention of torture, can this outcome be attributed to the programme? If there is no breakthrough, can this negative outcome be attributed to the programme - can the programme be ‘blamed’ for that? Clearly, the answer is *no*; the answer requires a **careful and rigorous analysis of the wider context** in which the programme operates⁵.

¹ For an overview of Methodology of Human Rights Outcome Assessment see W.Koekebakker: Indicators for Human Rights Programming. Manual, Seychelles, 2012; H.O.Sano: Human Rights Indicators at programme and project level. Guidelines for defining indicators, Monitoring and Evaluation. Copenhagen, The Danish Institute for Human Rights, 2006.

² in other words, ‘embracing complexity’. See I.Guijt e.a., Evaluation Revisited. Improving the quality of evaluative practice by Embracing Complexity. Conference report, Wageningen, Centre for Development Innovation, 2011.

³ All major international development institutions and humanitarian institutions have their ‘corporate’ strategies on evaluation and impact assessment, e.g., UN, WB, OECD/DAC, EU, and the larger INGOs.

⁴ Quantitative approaches on measurement of impact of HR-interventions pose a wide range of methodological challenges that reach beyond this assessment. See W.Koekebakker: Report on a Field Mission to Kutum, North Darfur, August 2006.

⁵ See the AHRC Sri Lanka Evaluation report, quoted below. See also the example of the resolution of the Special Session of the HRC on Sri Lanka, May 2009, quoted in the paragraph on International Human Rights Advocacy.

Outcome evaluation ‘works backwards from the outcome’. It takes the outcome as its point of departure and then assesses:

- whether (to what extent) the outcome has been achieved,
- how, why, the outcome has been achieved (factors affecting the outcome),
- the *contribution*⁶ of the organisation to the achievement of the outcome, including its partnership strategy; the relative weight of project components in contributing to outcome;
- an assessment of the wider context including enabling and counteracting factors and actors⁷.

Assessment of Outcome: “x”

The logic goes as follows:

1. Outcome: “x”

2. Assessing Indicators for this outcome: x

3. Analysis of actors and factors contributing to this outcome:

- The organisation and partners
- Other actors and factors, national and international
- Wider context
- Enabling and counteracting factors

4. Conclusion: it is/not justified to conclude that this outcome can be attributed to the project.

In the context of this outcome assessment the evaluator used a stepwise assessment of outcome. An **outcome framework** was developed for all programmes and countries, to identify actual outcome, indicators, attribution (contribution) of outcome, and ‘most significant outcome’ (see below).

The framework captures the entire ‘results chain’ – which is basically ‘Theory of Change’ in ‘logframe language’. See the framework, below. The basic questions:

Questions on outcome assessment

1. Is there evidence that the expected outcome is actually happening? To what extent?
2. How to substantiate outcome? Quantitative and qualitative indicators? How do beneficiaries/victims/partners perceive outcome?
3. Can this outcome be attributed to AHRC and partners⁸? How precisely do we substantiate that we can attribute the outcome to the interventions of AHRC and partners? To what extent? What has AHRC contributed?
4. What is the most significant outcome? What is the narrative? Does it involve outcome at individual/collective/systemic level? Have different AHRC work programmes contributed to this outcome?

As in the context of this evaluation it is not feasible to assess ‘all outcomes’ it was decided to focus on “Most Significant Outcome”. The outcome framework was used throughout the evaluation, in briefings, interviews, surveys, and analysis of documents and reports. Staff members contributed their inputs to the framework, which was then used as a basis for joint analysis.

This method was used to involve staff in the outcome assessment, and together identify ‘most significant outcome’. For every single programme and country project the assessment has been a different process.

⁶ John Mayne: Contribution Analysis: Addressing cause and effect, in: “Evaluating the Complex: Attribution, Contribution, and Beyond”, Comparative Policy Evaluation, Volume 18 (2011), by Kim Forss, Mita Marra, Robert Schwartz. “Too often the question of attribution is ignored in programme evaluations. Observed results are reported with no discussion as to whether they were the result of the programme's activities.”

⁷ A method used in the analysis of the wider context is the approach applied in the evaluation of the AHRC Programme in Sri Lanka: Constructing a time line differentiating the dynamics among the various actors and factors over time. There is an added value in establishing a context analysis in a participatory way, to grasp multiple perspectives and enable common strategies - as is also observed in Rule of Law meetings organized by AHRC. Koekebakker, W., and L. dela Cruz: Prevention of Police Torture in Sri Lanka, Final project evaluation. In: Ethics in Action, Vol. 3 no 6 Dec 2009. The different time lines were summarized in a graph. This would substantiate conclusions on the interaction of contextual actors and factors with the project as influencing project outcome and on the extent to which the outcome may be actually attributed to the project.

⁸ Attribution may not be confused with “claiming”: on the contrary, there is a widespread tendency to claim impact that may not be substantiated - also within AHRC. (For example: Right to Food, Work report 2009). Attribution analysis is actually de-mystifying attribution. Careful analysis leads to modesty about the extent of outcome that may be attributed to the intervention of the actor and its partners.

There is a tendency to ‘assume’ outcome. Also, not all staff members are proficient with the PME model⁹. Some see the matrix as a burden rather than as a useful tool for planning and self-monitoring.

Identification and in-depth analysis of outcome, indicators and ‘attribution’ was an intense process that involved bilateral meetings with programme staff and country desk officers – sometimes several meetings for one programme - to identify what is regarded as ‘most significant outcome’¹⁰.

The contribution of the International Advocacy desk to the Outcome Assessment was an interesting example of using outcome indicators as a monitoring instrument, on a meta-level commenting on current indicators, adding new indicators, and drawing conclusions on future priorities in terms of maximizing effectiveness. The model - a PME framework and Outcome Assessment - can be a useful tool in strengthening human rights advocacy.¹¹

It appears that this method has been effective in carefully establishing credible evidence of outcome of the AHRC/ALRC programmes. It is also observed that outcome is often ‘assumed’. All in all it has been possible to conclude that “outcome is there, and the outcome can with reasonable certainty to a certain extent be attributed to the efforts of AHRC/ALRC and partners”.

<p align="center">Framework for Outcome assessment for the Evaluation of the AHRC/ALRC 2010-2012 Programme</p>					
1	2	3	4	5. Most Significant	6.
	Outcome?	Indicators?	Attribution?	Outcome?	Impact?
main expected outcomes (in PME)	Actual outcomes?	Quantitative Qualitative Recipient perspective?	Attribution to AHRC and partners?	Narrative?	Likelihood of Impact?
Questions, Comments					
Need to change expected outcome?	Need to add/change any indicator? SMART/SPICED? Which outcomes are less evident? Unexpected outcomes?	How to undertake assessment? Considering limited resources? Contextual factors? Most significant indicator in terms of issue in question?	Not to ‘claim’ outcome, but to assess attribution and contribution. Context analysis: other actors and factors contributing to outcome? Inhibiting factors?	Involves individual, collective, systemic level? Various AHRC programmes? Beneficiary perspective? Gaining critical mass? This story weaves all information together.	Sustainable? Individual, collective, institutional, wider level?

Levels and layers of outcome and impact

As will be demonstrated in the course of this report, different levels and layers of outcome and impact can be observed. Outcome is a never-ending dynamic process. Outcome can be seen at an individual level: Rifat Rani in Lahore testifying that “AHRC saved my life” is tremendous impact. Bai Guimei in Beijing telling that AHRC for her is “hope”: tremendous impact. Or it can be at a collective level: hundreds of torture survivors in Sri Lanka acknowledging that AHRC and its partners contributed to access to justice. Collective outcome may result in the ‘critical mass’ leading to sustainable change. Or it could be systemic: a country effectively moving in the direction of Rule of Law¹².

As there is a hierarchy of objectives, there is a hierarchy of indicators, and there is a hierarchy of outcome and impact. The more significant the impact, the more difficult it is to attribute it to particular

⁹Some staff communicated that there is a need for more capacity building on “outcome assessment” and Project Monitoring and Evaluation with the PME manual as a monitoring tool; they recommend that follow-up training on PME be provided.

¹⁰In particular the contributions from the Indonesia desk and the International Advocacy desk were very focused. The outcome framework of the Indonesia desk has been attached as an annex to this report.

¹¹Michael Anthony: Asia-Europe Dialogue Programme input concerning the Outcome Assessment Framework Document, unpublished, June 2012, page 6. See also the paragraph on International Advocacy.

¹²Basil Fernando: Impact assessment of human rights work in less developed countries, unpublished paper, June 2012, gives many examples of “layers of change and impact”. See also the paragraph on Urgent Appeals.

actors or interventions. Outcome, per definition, can only be the result of the interaction of multiple actors and factors¹³. It would be a challenging task for the organization and its partners to develop a theoretical framework with a monitoring matrix that can be helpful as an effective tool for documenting and empirically substantiating outcome and impact of the Human Rights work of AHRC.

In establishing outcome the evaluator decided to make use of the PME framework.

Currently AHRC uses several matrixes; they are incongruent and follow a different logic¹⁴.

Recommendation: Maintain one consistent results matrix to organize and monitor the work.

Field visits

Three field visits were made to The Philippines, Pakistan and China. A visit to India was foreseen but cancelled due to logistics and lack of time. Selection criteria for field visits included: covering South, South-East and East Asia; diversity in terms of Human Rights context; growth of the country project; preference articulated by country desks. Debriefings of field visits were held for staff and management with skype connection for external staff. During field visits the evaluator met with victims/survivors and their families, human rights defenders, representatives of people's movements, NGOs, lawyers and judges, journalists, authorities, academic human rights experts, and other key informants. Field visits and briefing meetings were excellently prepared by staff and partners.

An evaluation workshop was organized for staff, where the findings of the evaluation mission were presented and discussed. The first part concentrated on outcome assessment for one country project - Pakistan. The workshop also covered methodology, indicators for human rights programming, capacity building, and ways to strengthen a gender perspective in the organization.

Methodological approaches

This assessment uses a combination of methodological approaches that have each of them in a different way proven to be valid in the evaluation of human rights interventions.

1. Appreciative approach. Focus on Most Significant Change. Showing respect and giving credit to the human rights defender. Acknowledging the capacities and the courage of the survivor. Appreciative evaluation focuses on the positive elements of organizations to foster constructive change. It highlights the uniqueness of organizations and people and encourages them through energizing questions. The appreciative approach does not ignore or negate the problematic aspects of an organization but these are reframed in a constructive way.
2. Survivors' perspective, partners' perspective, rights holders' perspective: what is the outcome (impact) in the perceptions of "those who matter most". The report includes perceptions of the partners and victims (quotations, surveys) so as to "make their voices heard" and an analysis of partners' perceptions is the 'body' of the China report.
3. Surveys. The evaluation organised 13 surveys in meetings with victims, partners and staff, 1) to give everyone a chance to participate, and 2) to grasp the diversity of perceptions. See Annex.
4. Adherence to ALNAP Evaluation Principles, UNEG Guidelines and anthropological ethical frameworks¹⁵.
5. Visual arts and visual tools are integrated in the evaluation methodology. For example, visual sources of verification are included in the outcome indicators. Photographs and video recordings were made of victims of torture and human rights defenders. The victims express their respect and gratitude for AHRC. One video was on Rifat Rani, torture survivor in Lahore; one on Temogen

¹³ The 'Most Significant Outcome' of the international advocacy programme – the report submitted by ALRC jointly with the Indonesian NGO KontraS for the Indonesian UPR review - underscores this conclusion on outcome assessment: at the level of outcome it does not make sense to attribute to, or 'isolate', one single actor. Per definition, outcome is the level where *multiple* actors and factors are interacting.

¹⁴ 1) The PME Manual framework; 2) The 2010-2012 Work Programme; 3) The 2009 Results Matrix in the Work Programme 2010-2012. Organized in a different way. Inadequate as a results matrix: not logic, not SMART, not consistent; confusing objectives, outcomes, indicators; it does however contain a number of useful mixed qualitative / quantitative indicators; 4) Work Reports follow yet another logic. Using the PME Manual makes sense as the expected outcomes and indicators have been developed in most detail with help of the external consultant. The decision to use the PME framework as a basis for the outcome assessment was validated in a discussion with Exec. Director Wong Kai Shing 18 June 2012. Kai Shing: "we were not satisfied with the 2009 framework, the PME is better organized".

¹⁵ UNEG Ethical Guidelines for Evaluation, 2008, <http://www.unevaluation.org/ethicalguidelines>

Tulawie, in the Central Prison of Davao; one on Talib Japalali in Davao; one on survivors of the Fisherfolk Forum in Karachi; one on human rights defender Florence in Manila. The videos were screened in the evaluation workshop. The videos provide powerful and convincing evidence of the impact of the AHRC programme on victims of torture and human rights violations in Asia.

3. The AHRC / ALRC Programmes: Outcome assessment

The key programmes of AHRC/ALRC are assessed in the following paragraphs:

- Urgent Appeals programme,
- Campaign for elimination of torture,
- Campaigns promoting legal and institutional reforms,
- Human Rights school,
- Internship programme,
- Communication and Information Technology
- The Right to Food programme, and
- Active lobby at the United Nations.

These programmes (and the other ones: publications, religious groups, protection...) are interrelated. All country desks pursue the full range of AHRC programmes with variations depending on priorities felt most acute in view of the particular human rights context.

1. The Urgent Appeals Programme

The AHRC Urgent Appeals programme is an effective Rapid Response Mechanism linking grass roots advocacy and with high profile advocacy at regional and international level.

The Urgent Appeals programme serves a wide range of objectives: breaking the silence, mobilize protest and support, build up pressure, ensure investigation, ensure due process, prosecute those responsible, protection, document narratives of human rights violations, construe a database, enable systematic analysis, build public awareness and serve as a driving force for local and international intervention. AHRC sees the Urgent Appeals Programme as primary to all its work¹⁶.

The present “**AHRC model of Urgent Appeals**” is the outcome of many years of experience and ongoing reflection. The model is described in detail in the Urgent Appeals Programme guidelines.¹⁷ The model is the reflection of close partnership between AHRC and local partners. The strength of the programme lies precisely in these partnerships¹⁸. As such, the UA are an essential feature of AHRC’s three-tier-organisational model.¹⁹ Training resulted in a larger share of the UA being produced by local partners and the impetus of the UA work is now increasingly coming from partners²⁰.

Quantitative and qualitative indicators are both relevant for the assessment of output and outcome of UAs. In the period 2007-2009 the emphasis was on increase of quality standards²¹; in the same period the number of UAs decreased, then stabilised in 2010 (248)²² to rise again in 2011 (325).

¹⁶ The theory behind the AHRC's Urgent Appeals Programme, Ethics in Action, vol. 4 no.6 Dec. 2010; <http://www.ethicsinaction.asia/archive/2010-ethics-in-action/vol.-4-no.-6-december-2010/7.0the-theory-behind-the-ahrcs-urgent-appeals>; B.Fernando: The Theory of Urgent Appeals, part I, II, briefing paper, Hong Kong, 2012. AHRC: Extended Introduction: Urgent Appeals, theory and practice. A need for dialogue. <http://www.humanrights.asia/news/urgent-appeals>

¹⁷ Underlying concept, methods of data collection, verification, procedures, contents, quality standards, layout, e.a. PPT presentation on UA Programme, 21.5.2012, by desk co-ordinators D.Reyes, Ashrafuzzaman. UA should be written with ‘objectivity, compassion, competence’; key is ‘the narrative where the individual’s voice is heard’.

¹⁸ UA Programme AHRC - PPT 21.5.2012. “The regional organisation needs local knowledge ... while the local organization needs ... regional and international Human Rights mechanisms”.

¹⁹ W.Koekebakker, L. de la Cruz, o.c., 2009, page 16

²⁰ A Pakistan UA desk is planned with PILER – See Annex-Pakistan. Sor, Thailand desk: “Most UA’s nowadays are from partner organisations forwarded by us – they can now do it themselves, that is the fruit of the Folkschool. These partner organisations include cross-cultural foundations, peace groups, labour organisations” Skype interview, June 2012.

²¹ Including case details, in-depth analysis, working on tone and style; see AHRC-ALRC Work Report 2009 p 11

²² Number of UA 2006-2009: see AHRC-ALRC Work Programme 2010-2012 p 38

Efforts to enhance quality resulted in:

- Well developed formats and guidelines,
- An overall rise in quality standards²³,
- Quality improvement in annual reporting on UA's²⁴.

The aim is to gain harmonization in terms of quality while keeping space for country-specific priorities. Yet, stakeholders (one partner organisation, one donor) have communicated that credibility and impact of Urgent Appeals may still benefit from a bit more quality control.²⁵

A mix of quantitative and qualitative indicators is relevant for distribution channels²⁶: AHRC strives to include relevant media and civil society groups so as to enable circulation 'to a much wider audience than on the initial mailing list'.²⁷ Media coverage is being tracked (as much as possible). Widening of distribution channels in view of optimizing impact is an ongoing challenge.

Figure 1. Urgent Appeals: Central to AHRC/ALRC

23 Tentative assessment based on random comparative analysis of UA's 2009-2012

24 One of the editors: "Editing may be given more emphasis". AHRC Report 2009: emphasis on quantitative output assessment; Report 2010: systematic analysis of 'impact'; Report 2011: systematic analysis of outcome following PME outcome indicators, with narratives and analysis for each country.

25 Aaliya Zaveri, UA desk, 27 June 2012: "There is generally a feeling that we should send it out because it is urgent rather than spend some more time at editing".

26 Nr. of UA subscribers as of July 2012: 2759. Information by UA desk, Danilo Reyes.

27 The theory behind the AHRC's Urgent Appeals Programme, Ethics in Action, vol. 4 no.6 December 2010.

plug-ins on campaign pages have been included to connect directly with the top most popular social networks.³³

Outcome according to Indicators

AHRC developed 4 areas of Expected Outcome with clear indicators.

Outcome indicators use a mix of SMART and SPICED properties, involve quantitative and qualitative indicators, and means of verification are clear. Outcome indicators could be more specific in view of what precisely the organization would like to achieve with the UA programme³⁴.

There is evidence of several outcomes that can be attributed to the Urgent Appeals programme:

1. A regular channel of timely and accurate information about human rights violations in Asia. This is partly output, partly outcome, as Urgent Appeals are produced in cooperation with others.
2. A large number of victims received relief and local and international support for seeking redress³⁵: overwhelming evidence of outcome. Case documentation on UA/UAU from 12 Asian countries provides numerous examples of:
 - victims of human rights violations receiving support and relief (individuals, groups, families),
 - increased capacity of local groups and support networks in documentation, providing support for victims, torture prevention and international campaigns,
 - Partners and local groups have been trained on producing UA, have confidence that they can actually produce UA, and set up their own database – as reported during field visits in Pakistan and The Philippines and discussed with staff and participants of various meetings in Hong Kong.
3. A huge and invaluable database on cases of Human Rights Violations in Asia. In-depth knowledge and case documentation on related institutional problems. Information disseminated widely to local and global audiences. Information used for individual redress, HR campaigns, research, HR Education³⁶ and advocacy, by local and international organisations. A trained network of Human Rights activists working with the concept of Rule-of-Law reform. This outcome can be directly attributed to AHRC and its partners.
4. There is evidence of international human rights networks and UN human rights actors being responsive to UA cases. International rights groups respond to calls for action in UA; they reproduce cases documented through UA; UA cases enter into AHRC submissions to the UN HRC and other international HR forums. UN rapporteurs have intervened in HRV cases.

Perceptions - Victims and Human Rights Defenders

Perceptions of Victims and Human Rights Defenders - feedback from field visits -

Victims and Human Rights Defenders perceive the Urgent Appeals as a tremendous support and as a source of protection. Some feel that the Urgent Appeal “has saved their life”. That is the conclusion of discussions during the evaluation missions in Pakistan and The Philippines.

Ashraf Khanis journalist, leader of the Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists, and involved in drafting the first Pakistani Bill on Torture.

“Do you regard the Urgent Appeals as helpful?”

“Yes! I am a direct beneficiary. I was working for Associated Press. I was threatened by Taliban. Associated Press provided only temporary support, they suggested to relocate me outside Pakistan. When AHRC issued an Urgent Appeal the international editor changed his attitude and was ready to provide me more support ...”

³³ ALRC: Online Advocacy tools for Human Rights in Asia, p 9. Funding proposal.

³⁴ For example: “Increased quality of UA’s submitted by local groups, as evidenced by ...”.

³⁵ There is no ‘baseline’ to assess the ‘more support’-indicator.

³⁶ UA are seen as a useful tool for HR education. See AHRC/ALRC Handbook page 54

Victims in Manila (Philippines) and Lahore, Karachi and Balochistan (Pakistan) expressed themselves in a similar way³⁷: Ms. Rifat Rani said, in a statement recorded by video: “*Without the Urgent Appeal, I would not be alive – I would not be here...*”

Victims in Lahore and Karachi reported that after being tortured they had to live in constant fear for further retaliation. After the AHRC had issued an Urgent Appeal, the police and local power-holders stopped threatening them. They felt respected and empowered because ‘somewhere outside there are people supporting me’.

This evaluation mission found that the UAs are highly respected by journalists and media representatives as a source of information on Human Rights Violations and Rule of Law deficiencies, and as a guide to further analysis of cases of HRV.

Ashraf Khan: “The Urgent Appeal is very useful, the tone is fine, it provides us the lead to the issue, the level of verification is fine, it can be used for further investigation.”

Most Significant Outcome

The Most Significant Outcome is undoubtedly in the first place *the instrument itself*: the Urgent Appeals programme, with its body of experience and expertise, its history, known quality standards, credibility; with a solid team in Hong Kong, a partner network of trained human rights activists covering 11 Asian countries, its experience with international human rights mechanisms, with an outreach of 200,000: ready to break the silence and mobilise action on any new case of Human Rights Violation in Asia that is brought to their attention. In the repressive context and the absence of Rule-of-Law in most Asian countries any successful effort to break the silence surrounding human rights violations is a significant outcome in itself.

The evaluator traced, at random, 25 Urgent Appeals in the period 2010-2012 and their follow up. In the majority of cases these UA have resulted in some kind of response, be it investigation, protection, community action, prevention of further violations, legal redress, increased self-respect of survivors, public discourse on Rule-of-Law-institutions, international response, government response. There are significant examples of outcome of the UA programme, depending on the perspective of ‘outcome’. There are also examples of apathy and denial. Follow-up will have to remain high on the agenda. Many UAs are the result of thorough investigation work of local groups and desk staff. The two UA co-ordinators, when asked what they regard as examples of significant outcome of UA, mentioned several cases including the case of Bangladesh, below³⁸.

Bangladesh AHRC-UAC-019-2010

A young man was arbitrarily arrested, tortured and killed by the Rapid Action Battalion in Bangladesh, 2010. Following AHRC’s Urgent Appeal to the National Human Rights Commission, the NHRC ordered the minister of Home Affairs to investigate the matter. This was the first ever example of investigation into an alleged murder involving the RAB since the inception of this paramilitary force that enjoys blatant impunity. With help from AHRC, a Human Rights lawyer, Mohamed Shamsul Haque, was appointed in the probe committee. The report of the committee concluded that RAB and police are involved in torturing this person to death.

UA desk co-ordinator: “The frustrating part is that the new chairperson of NHRC is close to the regime and he shelved the report”. Mr. Haque continues to advocate on this issue³⁹.

The authorities of Bangladesh do not respond to letters sent to them following UA. The Bangladesh Desk learned from victims that in all almost cases intelligence agencies conduct investigations into the

37 see also the outcome of the surveys in Lahore, Karachi, and Manila.

38 UA desk co-ordinators Danilo Reyes and Ashrafuzzaman. See excellent Work Reports 2010-2011 for concise analysis of outcome and follow up of many UA. For example: Sri Lanka, Rizana, working in Saudi Arabia, charged with murder, sentenced to death by beheading. AHRC launched an UA, raised money for the appeal; triggered support from all over the world. Philippines:UA and documentation on HRV reportedly supported the visit of Philip Alston, Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial Killings; Pakistan: Higher Courts including Human Rights Cell of Supreme Court, based on UAs, ordered inquiries into various cases; Burma: all appeals are covered in Burmese language radio; Philippines: following UA, charges against 43 health workers were withdrawn. Responses from government: In 2011 AHRC received 100 letters from government agencies responding to UAs, in majority from India, Pakistan: AHRC/ ALRC Work Report 2011 p 36.

39 Discussion with Mr. Mohamed Shamsul Haque, during Rule of Law meeting, AHRC premises, June 2012

UA cases. This never results in prosecution of alleged perpetrators irrespective of the outcome of the investigations.

Victims of human rights abuses and their families express their gratitude to the partners of the AHRC in Bangladesh for raising their cases through the Urgent Appeals. For victims this comes as an unexpected outside support.⁴⁰

Conclusions on Outcome

1. The single major Overall Outcome is undoubtedly the instrument itself: the Urgent Appeals Programme, with its body of experience and expertise, its legacy, known quality standards, credibility; with a solid team in Hong Kong, a local partner network of trained human rights activists, its experience with international human rights mechanisms, an estimated outreach of 200,000: ready to break the silence and mobilise action on any new case of Human Rights Violation in Asia that is brought to their attention. This instrument, this *AHRC model of Urgent Appeals*, is presently the most powerful and fastest growing Human Rights Rapid Response Mechanism linking grass roots expertise with high profile international advocacy in Asia.
2. The Urgent Appeals programme is central to all AHRC's work.
3. Victims and Human Rights Defenders perceive the UA as a tremendous support and a source of protection. Some feel that "*the AHRC Urgent Appeal has saved my life*". That is the conclusion of numerous discussions during the evaluation missions in Pakistan and The Philippines. Survivors felt respected and empowered because 'somewhere outside there are people supporting me'.
4. This evaluation mission found that the UAs are highly respected by journalists and media representatives as a source of information on Human Rights Violations and Rule of Law deficiencies, and as a guide to further analysis of cases of HRV.
5. The quality of Urgent Appeals is high, with increasing quality standards. Some UA can be better. The quality of annual reporting on the UA programme is high.
6. The excellent search engine ranking no 1 for "Urgent Appeals Human Rights" indicates the significance of the AHRC Urgent Appeal programme.
7. The overall Outcome that can be attributed to the Urgent Appeals programme is:
 - A huge and invaluable database on Human Rights violations and Rule of Law deficiencies, based on detailed and verifiable case documentation, covering 11 countries in Asia,
 - Hundreds of survivors of Human Rights violations and local Human Rights defenders annually receiving international support for seeking redress; hundreds of survivors feeling recognized and empowered by international support;
 - Major international Human Rights networks and Human Rights mechanisms have been supplied with case documentation about Human Rights Violations in Asia and UA case documentation has been used to substantiate international Human Rights advocacy.
8. Actual outcome goes beyond the aims of the UA Programme⁴¹ and beyond the PME indicators⁴².
9. While Urgent Appeals are generally based on a single case (narrative), the accumulation of cases in combination with additional interventions enables a shift from individual to collective to more systemic outcome and impact; and a shift from quantitative to qualitative outcome and impact⁴³.
10. The Urgent Appeals have served as an effective advocacy tool that contributed to increased public awareness on the need of reform of Rule-of-Law-systems.
11. The increase of online response (blue button) is a significant outcome of AHRC's online advocacy work. Blue button response is a SMART indicator for a limited aspect of outcome.

Recommendations

40 AHRC Work Report 2010 p 23

41 AHRC/ALRC Work Programme 2010-2012 p 35

42 AHRC/ALRC Programme Monitoring and Evaluation Manual p 19-22.

43 "If we know only five instances of torture or forced disappearances, the same impact cannot be achieved as when we know about a hundred, two hundred or more instances of such violations. The greater the number of cases, with detailed information, the stronger the argument". <http://www.ethicsinaction.asia/archive/2010-ethics-in-action/vol.-4-no.-6-december-2010/3.0-criteria-for-the-assessment-of-impact>

- Outcome indicators and sources of verification are well developed, but could be sharpened so as to cover the full range of outcome.
For example consider adding ‘survivors feel supported, empowered’ as an outcome indicator (in the PME); ‘feedback from survivors’ to the means of verification for “victims of HRV have received support”; ‘increased capacity and confidence of partner organisations in producing UAs’; Overall, consider including the partners/survivors’ perspective.
- There is considerable diversity among UAs between country desks. This may be partly context related, partly related to individual differences. Diversity is a window for mutual learning and strengthening. Through team building, create a more open and mutually supportive atmosphere to discuss ‘diversity and commonalities’ in Urgent Appeals for stronger outcome.
- Analyse pivotal cases in comparative perspective for strengthening outcome,
- Quality control of UA may be improved for optimal impact, with more rigorous editing,
- Systematic follow-up will have to remain high on the agenda,
- Make efforts to broaden distribution channels of UA and publications. Do UA reach the people AHRC really wants to reach? Are key change agents receiving UAs and publications?
- Strengthen organizational learning process on dealing with dilemmas related to UA (e.g.: on empowerment of survivors, on anonymity - “on the web we use an anonymous name, but in letters to authorities we use the real name”)⁴⁴.
- More emphasis on Capacity Building of partners with final quality control,
- Strengthen Capacity Building on UA (and supporting mechanisms) for Human Rights Defenders from areas particularly prone to Human Rights Violations.
- Could there be more focus on women? A random sample of UA: UA are in some countries in majority on men. Is this inherent in the instrument or a matter of gender bias?

44 During the 2009 Sri Lanka evaluation the evaluators met one survivor who did not know that there was an UA about her. The report raised questions about procedures and learning processes. During the briefing in May 2012 the UA staff appeared to be unaware of the recommendations in the Sri Lanka report. The recommendations are still valid.

2. Torture Prevention and Legal and Institutional Reform

Prevention of Torture and Legal and Institutional Reforms is one of the overarching objectives of the AHRC/ALRC⁴⁵.

Elimination of torture has an intrinsic and an extrinsic value.

Torture is seen as an essential link in the chain of grave human rights violations, from arbitrary and incommunicado detention through forced disappearances or extra-judicial executions. Torture is also addressed as an opportunity to expose systemic deficiencies in the criminal justice system and the Rule of Law with torture being practiced as standard operating procedure. Prevention of torture, criminalizing torture practices and fighting impunity are essential elements in addressing dysfunctional public justice systems and advocating legal and institutional reform. Torture is, as well, addressed as an instrument of terror and part of a culture of fear in autocratic repressive political systems where human rights are systematically denied and as such elimination of torture is essential to all other human rights.

Torture is an ubiquitous feature of Asian societies. Symptom as well as root cause. AHRC speaks of a “*culture of torture with impunity in Asia*”.⁴⁶

AHRC Torture Prevention programme

The programme in Sri Lanka, most comprehensive, is unique. It can be called a ‘model’⁴⁷. It is based on a) an integrated approach linking grass roots with high profile advocacy at regional and international level, b) combining advocacy, legal redress, rehabilitation and protection, c) a rights based approach to torture prevention, and d) addressing torture as a poverty issue.

The programme in Sri Lanka has operated in a hostile and deteriorating political context (as is the case in many Asian countries). This has fundamentally affected its outcome, yet impact has been evident. The model of torture prevention in Sri Lanka has been considered relevant for other countries. The 2010-2012 work programme uses the model to further develop torture prevention programmes in other countries⁴⁸ while acknowledging contextual differences between Asian countries.

Anti-torture campaigns and institutional reforms: three examples

The anti-torture advocacy ‘model’ in Bangladesh:

In Bangladesh human rights defenders work in a highly intimidating environment with torture a common feature of the repression framework⁴⁹. In 2009 AHRC was requested by a parliamentarian, himself a torture victim, to draft a Bill criminalizing torture. In response to this, AHRC drafted the anti-Torture Bill⁵⁰. Pressure to criminalise torture was built up with further campaigning, lobby and

⁴⁵It is one of the central themes for all interventions, for example, the Rule of Law meetings, the Folkschool, the Urgent Appeal programme, campaigns, publications, international advocacy

⁴⁶AHRC/ALRC Work Report p 142

⁴⁷W. Koekebakker, L. dela Cruz: Prevention of Police Torture in Sri Lanka. Final Project Evaluation, in: Ethics in Action, Vol. 3 no 6, Dec. 2009. The evaluation recommended to disseminate its ‘lessons learned’ to organisations working on torture elsewhere.

⁴⁸AHRC/ALRC Work Programme 2010-2012 p 65. Basil Fernando: The AHRC model for Torture Prevention. In: Ethics in Action, Vol. 4 no 3, June 2010, p 31- 34

⁴⁹Bangladesh. In: The State of Human Rights in Ten Asian Nations – 2011. AHRC, Hong Kong, 2012.p 1-63;

M.Shamsul Haque: Rule of Law and Law & Order, Perspective Bangladesh. Unpublished document, 2012;

Special report: Lawless Law-Enforcement & the Parody of Judiciary in Bangladesh. In: Article 2, Vol 5 no 4 August 2006. Urgent Appeals, Bangladesh, 2010, 2011, 2012.

⁵⁰Zaman: “first time in the history of AHRC”; Bangladesh, Evaluation briefing doc., June 2012. The bill was formally introduced in Parliament Sept 2009 (“Private member’s bill to give effect to the convention against torture”). AHRC staff held meetings with parliamentarians, civil society. Parliamentary Committee, March 2011, recommended to legislate the bill. Government lacks political will to legislate the bill so bill is still pending; AHRC exerting pressure.

advocacy by the AHRC Bangladesh desk⁵¹. The Bangladesh desk regards the Anti-Torture Bill in Bangladesh as a major outcome of the AHRC programme in Bangladesh⁵².

The Philippines:

The AHRC desk published an extensive report on Torture⁵³. The report includes a critical analysis of the 2007 Philippines anti-torture Act, an analysis of the need for legal and institutional reform, and extensive case documentation on individual cases. The report was launched in a meeting with HR activists and officials. These are relevant building blocks in the campaign of AHRC and its partners against torture in The Philippines.

Pakistan: movement against torture?

Torture in Pakistan has been called a “hegemony of wilderness”⁵⁴ where impunity prevails. In June 2011 AHRC organized a seminar with journalists, human rights groups and bar associations in Karachi presided by the Chief Justice of the Provincial high Court; it was concluded to organize a strong move against torture. The AHRC Pakistan desk jointly with partners drafted the anti-Torture law⁵⁵; retired judges took up the task of presenting the bill to Parliament. This was the first time torture was raised in the Human Rights movement in the country. After the Asian Alliance against Torture and Ill-treatment (AAATI) was launched (July 2011) Pakistani partners responded by forming a Pakistani Chapter with 25 organisations under the banner of Anti Torture Alliance (ATA). ATA organised seminars, Folkschools, consultations and focal group discussions against torture and created a network of anti-torture partners all over the country including human rights activists, lawyers and judges, journalists, minority groups, and academics⁵⁶.

This evaluation mission met with torture survivors and some 30 representatives of the anti-torture campaign in Pakistan. It is concluded that:

- The scale of torture in Pakistani society can hardly be underestimated.
- Torture in Pakistan is inflicted on persons in all echelons of society, and impunity prevails. Human rights defenders, leaders of the lawyers movement are torture survivors, as well as the sitting president. The majority of torture victims are helpless people in remote areas.
- AHRC has managed to create a powerful network of advocates against torture, including experts, professionals, human rights groups, torture survivors.
- There may be a potential for a ‘movement against torture’.

AHRC and partners have organized effective anti-torture campaigns and campaigns for legal and institutional reforms in all countries in the region.⁵⁷

Outcome according to Indicators

The evaluation concludes that there are significant outcomes in the area of Torture Elimination and legal and institutional reforms in the period 2010-2012:

- There is a huge base of evidence on torture practices in all Asian countries, in AHRC’s case documentation and analytical reports. See Urgent Appeal programme and special reports⁵⁸.

51 Torture and Custodial Death (Prohibition) Bill – 2011, see AHRC/ALRC Work Report 2011 p 143.

52 AHRC Bangladesh staff Zaman, June 2012. AHRC supports capacity building including for judicial officers.

53 “Torture in the Philippines and the unfulfilled promise of the 1987 Constitution”: Article 2 Vol 10 nr 1, March 2011.

54 President Zardari has been qualified ‘helpless’ when the alleged perpetrator of torture on himself was appointed as the prosecutor general of Punjab Province. AHRC Special Report June 26, 2010

http://www.google.nl/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=1&ved=0CFQQFjAA&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.humanrights.asia%2Fresources%2Fspecial-reports%2FAHRC-SPR-001-2010-01%2Fat_download%2Ffile&ei=iJbT8eUNcOw0QWw16HIDw&usg=AFQjCNHjoUEJ0hAZqueBcDlaS8fdRhIOmA&sig2=BSuuhYs7tqINHAAfKwB-pQ

55 jointly with Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists and Karachi Bar Association.

56 AHRC Work Report 2011 p 143; Briefing paper for the Evaluation, unpublished, June 2012, p 3.

57 For India: See: “Torture Prevention and Policing Law in India”. In: Article 2, Vol 9, no 3-4, December 2010, including a critique of India’s Prevention of Torture Bill (passed Lok Sabha in May 2010), and a Model Bill on Torture, Custodial death by AHRC; AHRC: The State of Human Rights in Eleven Asian Nations – 2010, India: The proposed Law against Torture, p 106-117; Indonesia, see for example: Military impunity. In: Torture, Asian and Global Perspectives, vol 1 nr 1 April 2012 p 45-53; For Nepal: <http://notorture.ahrchk.net/profile/nepal/>

- Support to victims was strengthened in various ways⁵⁹: it strengthened cooperation with existing partners; new partners involved in support to victims; torture survivors report that in their perception AHRC provided protection, helped them to fight for justice, even sometimes saved their lives.
- Rehabilitation support to victims (including counseling) is a new area that AHRC is promoting – this is an important outcome that **exceeds the expected outcome** as formulated in the PME manual and the work programme.⁶⁰
- Public awareness on torture has increased in many Asian countries. “The problem of torture is now a public concern”.
- There is an apparent increase in involvement of local groups to eliminate torture.
- Groundbreaking studies saw the light, conducted and published by AHRC and partners of AHRC/ALRC, on torture⁶¹, prison conditions⁶², institutional problems and deficiencies of the Rule of Law⁶³, criminal justice systems, perpetrators and root causes⁶⁴ and political systems⁶⁵,
- Legislation to criminalize torture: AHRC has drafted anti-torture bills⁶⁶ and campaigned to improve inadequate anti-torture bills and police bills⁶⁷,
- Lobby and advocacy on legal and institutional reforms has been stepped up; recommendations on criminal justice systems, advocating legal reforms for witness protection, policing systems, investigation mechanisms on human rights violations,
- **The annual Rule of Law meetings, expert meetings, ongoing contacts, seminars and consultations on torture, impunity and Rule of Law organized by AHRC/ALRC throughout the year are perceived as an institutionalized network of visionary leaders, a source of inspiration and strength for human rights defenders throughout Asia; the impact of these networks can hardly be underestimated,**
- Torture has been an ‘entry point’ in highlighting deficiencies in systems of criminal investigation and policing. There is ample evidence that the Torture Elimination campaigns have been an effective tool in promoting the discourse on the alarming failure of the justice framework in Asian countries.
- A major outcome of the Torture Elimination interventions of the AHRC and its partners is the formation of the **Asian Alliance against Torture and Ill-Treatment (AAATI)**. See below.

Outcomes observed can to a considerable extent be attributed to the interventions of AHRC/ALRC and an increasing network of partners.

58 E.g. For a 2011 compilation of Urgent Appeals on Torture – Sri Lanka see: Urgent Appeals on Sri Lanka issued by the Asian Human Rights Commission in 2011, in: Article 2, vol 10, no 4, December 2011, p 9–147. B.Fernando: Torture and Ill-Treatment: tip of the iceberg that is Sri Lanka's dysfunctional justice system. In: Article 2, vol 10, no 4, December 2011, p 2-9. See also a great number of reports on Torture in Article 2: Vol. 09 - No. 03-04 December 2010 - Feature: torture prevention & police law in India; Article 2, Vol. 10 - No. 01 March 2011 - Special Report: Torture in the Philippines & the unfulfilled promise of the 1987 Constitution; Article 2, Vol. 10 - No. 02 June 2011 - Focus: Defending the human rights defender: Standing up for FMA Razzak; Article 2, Vol. 10 - No. 03 September 2011 - Launching the Asian Alliance Against Torture & Ill-treatment.

59 AHRC/ALRC Work Report 2011 p 141-142, see Urgent Appeals, country desk reports.

60 Communication with Dr. Mitra. AHRC now has a long term cooperation with Dr. Mitra. The commendable work of the group of Father Nandana and sister Mabel in Sri Lanka needs to be mentioned here.

61 Empirical Research on Torture by ALRC partners in China.

62 study by Janasansadaya and Home for Victims of Torture on prison conditions in Sri Lanka, 2011; study by Advocacy Forum, Nepal, on detention centres, see <http://notorture.ahrchk.net/profile/nepal/>. On The Philippines see: Prison visits in the Philippines, in: Ethics in Action vol 6 no 2, April, 2012.

63 Md. Shariful Islam: Politics-Corruption Nexus in Bangladesh: An empirical study of the Impacts on Judicial Governance. ALRC, 2010.

64 REDRESS, AHRC, and Human Rights Alert: The Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 in Manipur & other states of North East India: Sanctioning repression in violation of India's human rights obligations, in: Article 2, vol 10 no 3 September 2011, 22-52.

65 Nick Cheesman: The politics of Law and Order in Myanmar. Thesis, Department of Political and Social Change, School of International Political and Strategic Studies, College of Asia and the Pacific, Australian University, March 2012.

66 E.g., Pakistan

67 Nervazhi, Thrissur and ALRC: A critique with recommendations on the Kerala Police Bill, in: Article 2, vol 9 no 3-4, Dec. 2010, p 26-43

There is significant evidence of outcome and even instances of sustainable impact of the anti-Torture campaign of AHRC and its partners. The impact is visible at three levels:

- individual level (personal impact),
- collective level (campaigns, AAATI).
- the level of legal and institutional reform (advocacy for justice and Rule of Law).

Most Significant Outcome

Main Outcome **Asian Alliance against Torture**

The main outcome of the Torture Prevention programme is the formation of the Asian Alliance against Torture and Ill-treatment (AAATI). AAATI is the culmination of 10 years of work on the elimination of torture. The Anti Torture Alliance was proclaimed during the regional foundation meeting organized by AHRC and the Rehabilitation and Research Centre for Torture Victims (RCT)⁶⁸.

While causes and contributing factors to torture are context specific, it is believed that the Alliance may help in identifying common and innovative ways of promoting the fight against torture.

The proclamation of the AAATI has boosted anti-torture activities in the region⁶⁹. A major area for AAATI is promoting capacity of local human rights activists.

A new step in the movement against torture was the successful Regional Conference on Elimination of Torture for Asian Parliamentarians organized by AHRC in July 2012⁷⁰.

AHRC: “AAATI will work towards a broader movement against torture”.

Conclusions on Outcome: Anti-Torture Movement?

The public discourse on torture (in Asian countries) appears to be really changing: from a general denial a few years ago to acknowledging the prevalence of torture. Youtube video’s creating public outrage (Papua, Sri Lanka, Pakistan) may have contributed to the shift in public discourse.

The Asian Alliance against Torture comes at the right moment. It has the potential of developing into a “Movement against Torture”⁷¹. It can be said to already have features of a movement: increase of partners, regional expansion, a shared sense of urgency, deep commitment, diversification of action models, diversification of support base, visionary leadership and at the same time more ‘autonomous’ partners, a combination of formalization and non-formalization. Rising expectations. The ‘movement’ is gaining momentum.

Perceptions - Victims and Human Rights Defenders

The impact of the interventions of AHRC on the torture victims can not be underestimated.

The evaluator met with some 25 Torture survivors in The Philippines (Manila, Davao, General Santos) and in Pakistan (Lahore, Karachi) and in Hong Kong (at AHRC premises) and earlier in Sri Lanka.

<http://www.humanrights.asia/news/ahrc-news/AHRC-STM-038-2010>. AHRC: The State of Human Rights in 10 Asian nations, Hong Kong, 2009, p 199.

⁶⁸<http://www.humanrights.asia/issues/torture/AAATI>; Erik Wendt and Therese Rytter: A unique regional initiative: The Asian Alliance Against Torture and Ill-Treatment. In: Article 2, vol 10 no 3 Sept.2011, p 2-5. B.Fernando: Why the Asian Alliance Against Torture and Ill-Treatment? Adapted version of keynote speech delivered by B.Fernando. In: Article 2, vol 10 no 3 Sept. 2011, p 6-21

⁶⁹ India, Pakistan, Nepal, Indonesia

⁷⁰Hong Kong, 21-24 July, 2012: Meeting of Asian Parliamentarians against Torture and Ill-treatment. Eight Parliamentarians from Asian countries and prominent human rights activists participated. See reports, AHRC / ALRC website; Press Statement: ASIA: Decisive State Action Key to End Torture and ill-treatment, July 25, 2012

⁷¹ Five years ago AHRC expected that “a mass-based campaign against torture is now within the possibilities” which seemed at that time a bit too optimistic. Ethics in Action vol 3 nr 6 Dec 2009 p 48-49.

Torture survivors, without exception, report that AHRC has given them tremendous support. In the first place, moral and psychological support. AHRC has given them self-confidence and dignity when they felt they had lost everything. They feel that AHRC has stood behind them in organizing community support, advocating their case in the media, trying to get legal redress, organizing protection. The Urgent Appeals and constant follow up gave the victims the idea that: “somewhere in the world people are standing behind me”.

In the perception of the torture survivors the support provided by AHRC is truly invaluable.

**Perceptions from Torture Victims on the Impact of the AHRC Support
- feedback from field visits -**

Rifat Rani, a Human Rights Defender, in Lahore, Pakistan:

“I have been tortured, mentally and physically. We are alive thanks to Baseer Naweed and Asian Human Rights Commission. AHRC has given me my life. After Allah, if anyone has helped us, it is AHRC. I want to make that clear. That – that I am here – it is thanks to AHRC. I don’t mind if you publish that on internet. We will continue with our human rights activities anyway”.⁷²

Support to trauma healing

This evaluation met torture survivors from several Asian countries, in groups and in individual meetings. One of the recurring demands that was on trauma healing.

AHRC and its partners provide support to trauma healing to torture survivors in Sri Lanka and other countries, basically through a ‘package of service delivery’ model.⁷³ Knowledge sharing with outside experts contributed to innovative approaches that were appreciated by torture survivors⁷⁴. In Sri Lanka and The Philippines the evaluator witnessed how counseling and testimonial therapy contributed to individual and collective healing of survivors.

Healing is presently an integral part of the AHRC network expertise. Faced with the need to help victims in pain the local organisations engage in helping “heal invisible wounds”⁷⁵. What they do is immensely appreciated by the victims. There is space for more shared systematic learning in concepts, methods and tools of healing. A related area of need that was communicated to the evaluator is the need for institutionalized staff-care, among local partners as well as within AHRC/ALRC.

Recommendation: Ensure sustained in-house expertise of professional rehabilitation care. AHRC may encourage and facilitate professionalisation of rehabilitation care in the region, in particular in counseling techniques, case supervision, victims’ self-help techniques and staff care, sensitized to the cultural and political context.

Recommendations

- Outcome indicators could be sharpened to cover the full range of outcomes.
- Encourage, find funding for and facilitate a series of in-depth empirical studies on the ‘nexus’ in Asian countries.
- The Asian Alliance against Torture is a unique regional initiative. There are many contextual differences between the Asian countries. Creating coherence and synergies is challenging at a national level and even more so on a regional level.
 - Address ‘diversity and common ground’ as an ongoing dynamic process,

⁷²Torture survivor Rifat Rani, Lahore, in a meeting with the evaluator in Lahore, Pakistan, June 7, 2012. Rifat Rani and her husband Shafiq Dogar are Human Rights Defenders, active in Star Welfare Organization “Protecting Human Rights”. AHRC issued UAs, follow-up UAs, and statements and organized constant pressure and protection.

<http://www.humanrights.asia/news/urgent-appeals/AHRC-UAC-051-2009/>, <http://www.humanrights.asia/news/ahrc-news/AHRC-STM-122-2009>, <http://www.humanrights.asia/news/ahrc-news/AHRC-STM-215-2009>,

⁷³ The Biopsychosocial model (BPS), a “package of services”, including community based protection, accompanying victims to courts, counseling, medical support, livelihood support et cetera.

⁷⁴ Supported by Research and Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (RCT), including work done by Dr. Mitra and Inger Agger. See: Giving Voice. Using testimony as a brief therapy intervention in Psychosocial community work for survivors of torture and organised violence. Manual for Community workers and Human Rights activists. By C.Perera and S.Puvimanasinghe, and I.Agger. December 2008; I. Agger and S.Puvimanasinghe: Testimonial Therapy and Victims Solidarity Groups, Mission report, October 2009

⁷⁵Richard F.Mollica: Healing Invisible Wounds. Paths to Hope and Recovery in a Violent World. Nashville, 2006

- Identify and incorporate lessons learned, from other torture prevention models and successful social movements.
- Ensure sustained in-house expertise of professional rehabilitation care.
- The anti-torture coalition: What lessons can be learned from successful other social movements? On leadership, diversity, creating safe spaces, self-organisation, capacity building, strategic partnership, mobilising professional groups, ‘the culture of a movement’, addressing sensitive issues, is it possible to include former perpetrators willing to support the anti-torture movement?

3. Capacity Building towards Human Rights Leadership: Human Rights School, Internship

Human Rights School

AHRC has organised annual regional Folkschool (Human Rights schools) sessions since 2001; national level trainings since 2007; and since 2008 also target-group specific (victims, journalists) and thematic Folkschools (right to food, gender, indigenous people's rights, torture). They are increasingly designed in response to the needs of local groups⁷⁶ and regional campaigns⁷⁷. The training method is 'intense discussion', with practical lessons. Since 2009 a one-month certificate course is offered.

There are now 67 Human Rights lessons, covering 6 major areas⁷⁸. They are distributed by mail to some 300 human rights groups and available on internet. The primary target group is human rights defenders.

Expected outcome of the Human Rights School in the period 2010-2012:

Effective international HR Partnership, a growing network of Human Rights activists in Asia familiar with AHRC philosophy and working methods; Identifying Human Rights leaders; strengthening the multi-tier model; identifying cases and HR incidents; establishing links with grass roots HR advocates.

Expected Outcome – Indicators – Means of verification⁷⁹:

The PME Manual mentions 4 expected outcomes & related indicators & means of verification (summarized):

activists can apply practical skills to become HR communicators and leaders⁸⁰,

- more voices of victims can be heard; strengthening ties victims-activists

nr of activists taking up additional cases, becoming interns/partners

activists become active partners for AHRC, in particular in UA and campaigns⁸¹

- increased nr. of Folkschool and UA subscribers

nr of activists becoming interns/partners, taking up additional cases

better understanding of the experiences of victims

- UAs on cases identified in training; education from victims' perspective

nr of UAs coming from FS, improvement of case quality

growing community of partners; increased capacity of partners to organize Folkschools.

- Increased nr. of partners through FS, partners' capacity to organize Folkschools

nr of Folkschools organized through partners.

National level Folkschools in 2010/2011 have been organized including in⁸²: Assam, India (2010); Nepal (2010); Thailand (2010); Kerala, India (2011), North Mindanao, Philippines (2011), Papua, Indonesia (2011). Reports of the Regional and National level Folkschools are positive.

Survey among Human Rights School participants

This evaluation undertook a survey among Human Rights School participants in Hong Kong⁸³.

All participants respond that they expect to be able to apply what they have learned. They mention that they have learned a wide range of issues, at professional and at personal level, including understanding victims (one writes that she/he is a victim). Some are confident that others have learned from them. Some intend to work on Urgent Appeals.⁸⁴

⁷⁶e.g. local groups from Nepal and Papua asked for human rights schools on ESCR including on the right to food.

⁷⁷AHRC/ALRC Work Report 2012 p 67

⁷⁸www.hrschool.org; Verbal and written presentation by Moon Jeong Ho, 24.5.2012.

⁷⁹based on PME Manual p 26

⁸⁰documented in Work Report 2011 p 68

⁸¹Examples in Work Report 2011

⁸²AHRC/ALRC Work Report 2010, 2011 Reports addressing Outcome Indicators in a systematic way.

⁸³June, 2012, 12 respondents. Six questions, including: What do you expect to be able to use in your work?

⁸⁴Recommendations: 'use different methods for change', lecturing is too long/dominant/ (2x), more hands-on work, visualization could be used, I should have known what Folkschool expects from me so I can prepare myself, please provide lecture book, keep starting and finishing time, 'give small rule to participants'; some others report that 'all is good'.

Outcome according to Indicators

The Human Rights Schools programme has been effective in bringing about the expected outcome. This can be concluded in view of discussions with former Folkschool participants during field visits⁸⁵, discussions with 2012 Folkschool participants, the survey, evaluation documents and AHRC reports⁸⁶.

The Internship programme

The Internship programme has 3 aims⁸⁷:

- Exposure for local activists who live under repressive regimes; activists tend to have a mentality that regards the status quo as unalterable. Outside experience may help in seeing opportunities for change,
- Interns get hand on experience in the work of AHRC while AHRC gets insights in local conditions: mutual benefit,
- Interns learn new skills: documentation, report writing, analysis, lobby, IT for HR.

Expected Outcome – Indicators – Means of Verification

The PME Manual mentions 3 expected outcomes & related indicators & means of verification (summarized):

Interns become effective HR communicators/activists,

- Interns can apply new skills: case documentation, UAs, IT for HR.
Reports of interns,

Interns gain knowledge on HR in Asia,

- Interns can engage in discussion to analyse HR in Asia,
Reports of interns,

Closer working relationship between AHRC and local partner,

- Increase in quantity&quality of information flowing from intern's area,
Nr of cases, quality of cases,
- Sending organization adopting new practices in documentation, victim support,
Nr and quality of cases.

Outcome according to Indicators

This evaluation undertook a survey among interns⁸⁸. The responses indicate that interns have a high opinion of the work of AHRC/ALRC (“impact”, “a marvelous job”); they expect to be able to contribute in a meaningful way to Human Rights work, through UAs or international advocacy. The internship has given them insight knowledge on HR in Asia and transformed them. They respond that they expect to apply what they have learned. They mention a number of recommendations (below).

The internship programme achieves what it aims to achieve. It is effective in terms of the expected outcome. That can be concluded based on field visits, discussions with former participants of the internship programme in their home countries, discussions with interns at the premises of AHRC, evaluation documents, reports, and the survey.

The internship gives the local activists hand on experience with the human rights work: they learn ‘the craft of the human rights activist’. Interns learn to analyse the HR and Rule of Law in Asia. For many of them it is a lifetime experience. In their home countries former interns contribute to identifying cases of human rights violations, they are sending Urgent Appeals, and they become activists in the anti-torture coalition. Interns appear to often become local key partners for AHRC and some become

⁸⁵ Mr. Li Dan from Dongjen, Beijing; Professor Bai Guimei, prominent human rights professor at Law school, Beijing University; Ms. Huang Zhong, Wuhan PIDLI institute. Professor Bai Guimei: “I was very impressed with the Folkschool. It is very different to our context, friendly, people can learn from each other”.

⁸⁶ Nepalese participants evaluated the Folkschool as highly successful – see Folkschool report, July 2010.

⁸⁷ AHRC/ALRC Work Programme 2010-2012 p 72

⁸⁸ Survey among participants of the internship programme, Hongkong, June 2012. 6 respondents. Questions included: What, in your opinion is the most significant outcome of the work of AHRC/ALRC? What have you learned in your work? What has been the benefit at a personal level? Recommendations?

local AHRC staff (Indonesia, Nepal, Philippines, India⁸⁹) after their internship in Hong Kong. See the stories, below.

Perceptions - Victims and Human Rights Defenders

The following statements of human rights defenders are quoted here as they reflect many of the stories communicated about what the internship at AHRC and the Folkschool meant to them.

William Nicholas Gomez, Bangladesh

William is an intern from Bangladesh. He is very eager to tell his story about the way AHRC has supported him and made it possible for him to be an intern at AHRC.

“After being abducted and tortured, I was fully broken.... I had experience to help the victims but I had never been a victim. That moment AHRC, specially Mr. Zaman, stood by my side, listened to me...told me that AHRC will do all possible things to save my life. That was what I needed that time... AHRC brought the theory in practice...

Mr. Zaman was like a brother, Mr. Bijo was ready to listen to me and Mr. Basil was a big friend. The support that I got from AHRC is unique. This is my journey to understand human rights from my own experience. I have learnt how great the human rights are.

I was welcomed by the people in AHRC. I was very much touched by that. I was given a 6 months fellowship... This is a glimpse of what I got from AHRC. It will take 100 of pages to write my experience with AHRC”.⁹⁰

Dom-an Florence Macagne (Florence Manegdeg) – Philippines

Florence sees the Folkschool as a “space” that allowed her to move on beyond the ‘box’ of victimhood, to being a survivor, a victor, healing herself and others⁹¹.

AHRC issued an Urgent Appeal about the killing of my husband and invited me to the Folkschool.

“The Folkschool was... Space! It helped me to make a transition from being a victim to being a survivor to being a victor.

It was... meeting other victims and human rights defenders... it was dynamic exchange, a learning process: telling the story of human rights violations, but also how to survive and how to move on. Very subtle lessons. A profound experience. I am very grateful. AHRC did much more than just assisting a victim, much more that just inviting me to the Folkschool. It was only a week, in Hong Kong, but it made so much difference!

AHRC provided a great space to move on. A space to move beyond the box of victim-consciousness. Transcend the pain. Healing, ourselves and others”⁹².

⁸⁹ Works Report 2010, p 101, 2010 p 156/7; e.g. Styannes Answer, Harshi Perera e.a.

⁹⁰ Letter by William Nicholas Gomez, Bangladesh, intern, to the evaluator. William intends to write a book on his experience of being tortured and on the support of AHRC – part of a scholarship – the application was supported by AHRC. See statement by William, in Annex. Also: Interview with William, 18 June, 2012, Hong Kong.

⁹¹ Interview with Dom-an Florence Macagne (Florence Manegdeg), from Luzon, Philippines. Meeting her in Manila, 30-31 May, 2012. See interview with Florence, in Annex.

⁹² Florence is now engaged in creating a “Peace and Healing Sanctuary for families affected by armed conflict” in her village in Luzon: a healing centre, integrating organic farming and peace building, through ‘creative productions’, like playing the nose flute, a traditional instrument in her tribe.

Presentation by Ghulam Farooq, Balochistan, Pakistan

Ghulam Farooq is the founder of Voice for Baloch Missing Persons. He is the son of Ali Ashgar Bangulzai from Balochistan, who was abducted twice, last time in 2001, and ever since then has been missing. Ghulam Farooq has been an AHRC intern.

Farooq travelled to Karachi to make an elaborate and emotional presentation about forced disappearances in Balochistan⁹³. Farooq's testimony is evidence of the effectiveness and relevance of the AHRC internship programme. Farooq lived as a poor tailor in his village in Balochistan until his father was disappeared and Farooq came forward as a human rights advocate. AHRC invited him as an intern and that is how he was trained to become a professional Human Rights Defender. Farooq is now a major human rights leader in Balochistan. A phenomenal leader in one of the worst, least accessible, least documented places in terms of human rights violations in Asia. Working under extremely risky conditions.

“Creating Human Rights leadership”: this is certainly one of the outcomes of the AHRC capacity building programme, though ‘leadership’ may not be mentioned as such in the PME Manual. Farooq's growth as a leader also negates the usual stereotypes about human rights leadership: no resources, no staff, no formal education, no facilities: but highly effective and highly relevant.

Farooq: "internships are a great achievement of the organization... they provide systematic human rights education and training... AHRC staff and interns work with great spirit and dedication.... (helping to) create international debate about the issues and draw the attention of humanitarian organizations to the human rights violations to take practical steps to stop violations”.

Capacity Building, Leadership, Empowerment: essential features of the AHRC model

Capacity Building is a core underlying aspect of all AHRC activities. Without recognizing the “Culture of Capacity Building in AHRC” the success of the organization can't be understood.

Capacity building, working together, training, identifying cases of human rights violations, support to victims, strengthening the grassroots-regional linkages, healing, empowerment, listening, deeper understanding, support to human rights defenders, partnership building, strategizing, regional level analysis of Rule of Law deficiencies, regional level human rights advocacy, coalition building, consultations, Folkschool, internships, leadership building: these are all interwoven actions in AHRC. It is a powerful model of capacity building.

Capacity Building is not a linear, planned process⁹⁴; it is rather a *flow*. It informs all AHRC's interventions. It is a partly intangible aspect of the organization. It involves two ‘formal’ programmes: The Human Rights School (Folkschool) and the Internship programme. But the scope of the AHRC's Capacity Building reaches far beyond these two programmes.

AHRC leadership and staff and local partners spend considerable time and attention listening to and dialoguing with participants. AHRC staff give personal advice and guidance to trainees, supporting processes of healing and empowerment towards human rights leadership. Indeed, AHRC leadership is seen to actually play the role of an *educator, adviser and humane friend*.⁹⁵ This is an invaluable aspect of the organization.

⁹³ Meeting on 6 June, 2012, in Karachi. Farooq had travelled one day to make his presentation. “I want you to know this. I want you to hear my story”.

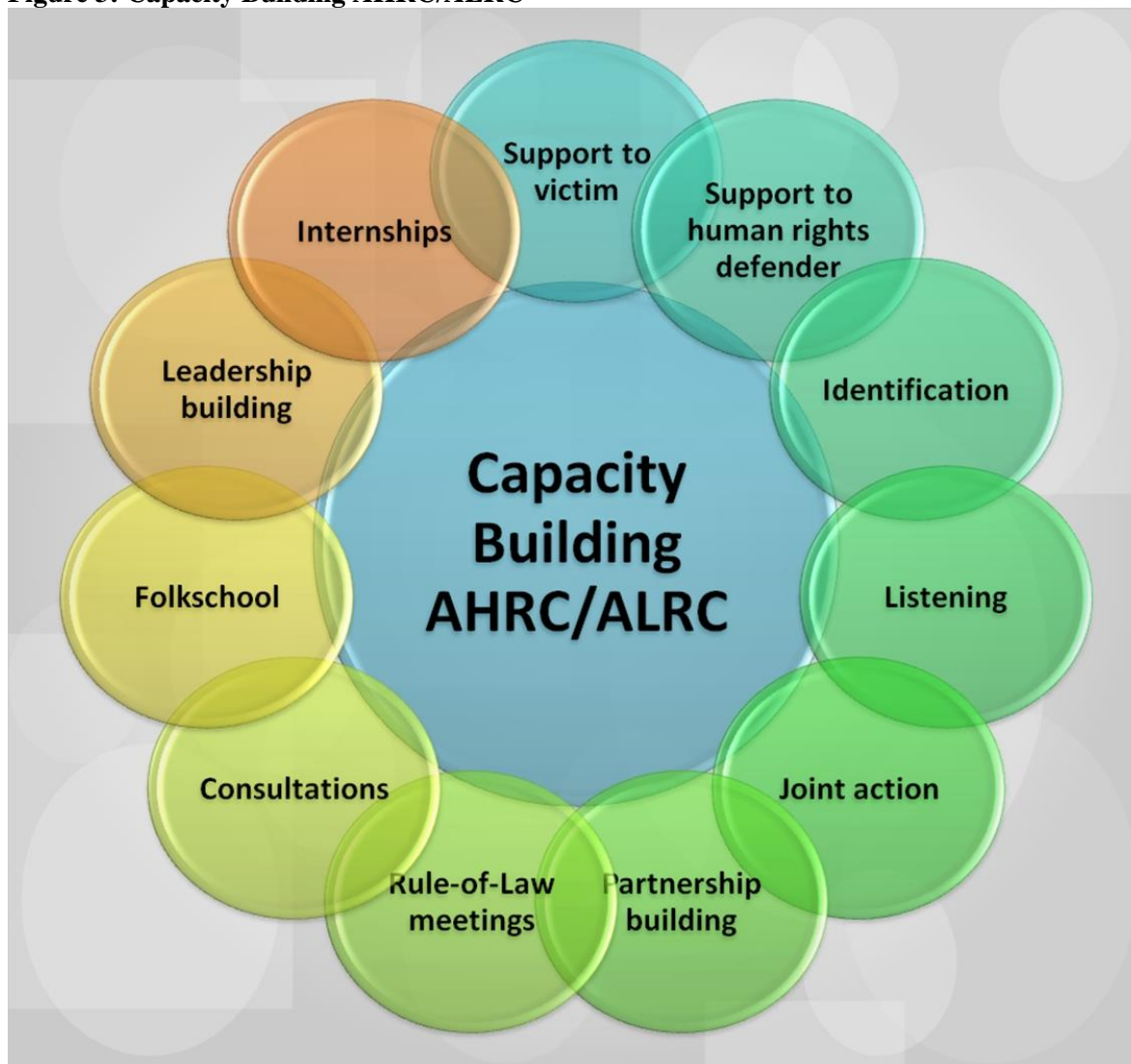
⁹⁴ “Capacity Building” suggests a one-way while AHRC perceives it as a dynamic two-way process (Juliette Thibaud).

⁹⁵ AHRC/ALRC Work Programme 2010-2012, Part 5: “The Type of Leadership Required”, p. 13-14. The paragraph on “The Type of Leadership Required” is ambitious, but the AHRC leadership is indeed seen by many as an “educator, adviser and humane friend”. AHRC may want to consider adding “gender and diversity sensitivity” to the qualities required. What other qualities are appreciated? It may be recommended to make this subject to an internal dialogue, also in view of team building.

Candidates identified for Human Rights School and internship are activists with experience in human rights action, often torture survivors. They are trained as human rights leaders. As one of them told: “I may be stronger as a Human Rights Defender because of what I have gone through myself”.

Capacity Building is also essential in terms of the strength of the partner network. AHRC’s capacity building approach, as has been observed in the Pakistan and Philippines country programmes, is also a considerable factor in solidifying the human rights network.

Figure 3: Capacity Building AHRC/ALRC



The ‘outcome’ of this ‘web’ of capacity building is, at a personal level:

- deeper insights, critical thinking,
- healing,
- personal empowerment,
- human rights leadership.

And at the level of the organisation:

- deeper insights,
- strengthened human rights advocacy model (grassroots-local-regional-international).
- Increase of quantity & quality inputs, based on grassroots experiences of human rights violations, communicated in an environment that is conducive to critical analysis and action.
- A strong network of human rights defenders, coalition building

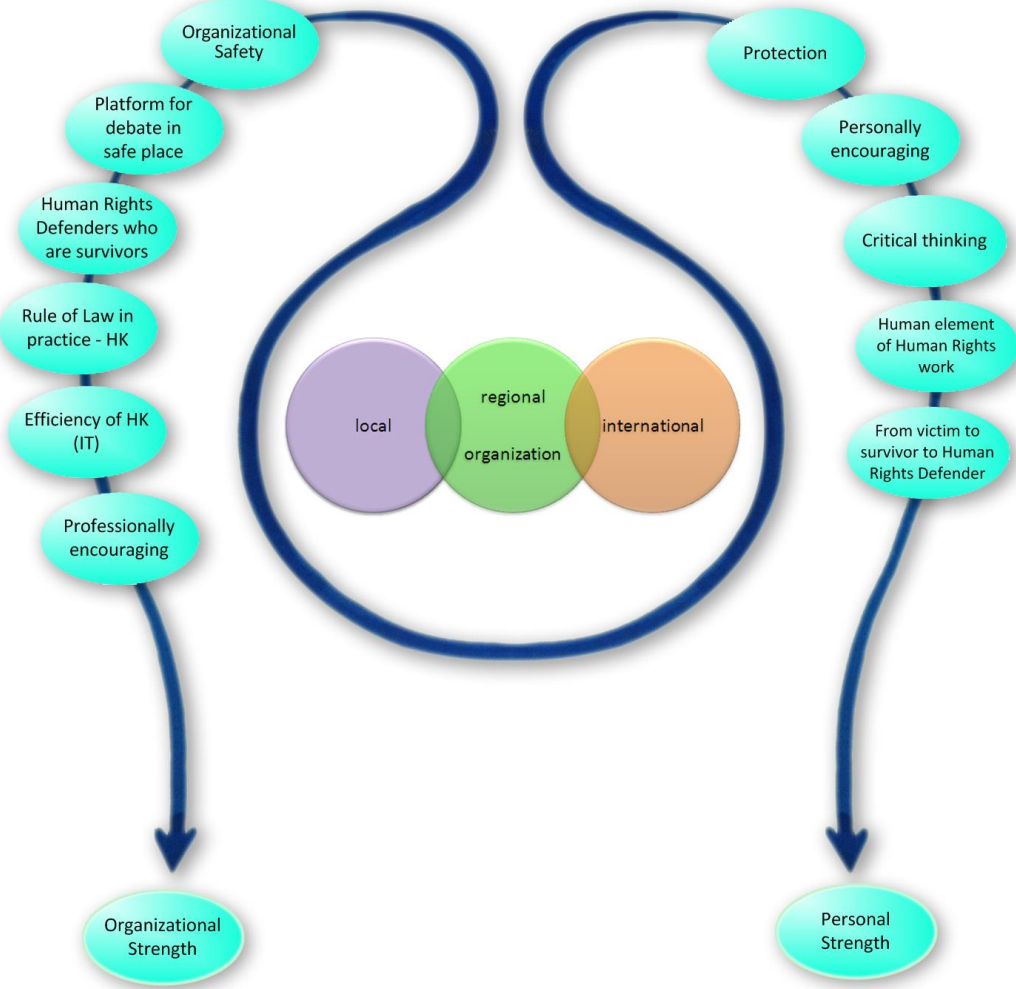
There is an assumption that the ‘investment’ pays off. Indeed, it does.

The dynamics of this model, this ‘flow of capacity building’ can be illustrated as follows:

Figure 4: The Flow of Capacity Building – Added Value of a Regional Organization

AHRC/ALRC

Added value of a regional organization based in Hong Kong: The Flow of Capacity Building



Conclusions: Capacity Building: Much more than expected outcome

1. There is no doubt that the Human Rights School program and the internship programme have been effective in achieving the **expected outcome** as defined in the PME. The outcome / impact of the Human Rights school programme and the Internship programme goes much beyond what can be grasped in indicators.
2. It is evident from interviews, reports and observations in the field that AHRC's **capacity building** strategy is highly successful in generating a dynamic and sustainable pool of valuable information, capabilities, leadership and partnerships that contribute to effective human rights intervention. Capacity Building for AHR is not a linear, planned process⁹⁶; it is rather a *flow*. It informs all AHRC's interventions. It is a partly intangible aspect of the organization. It involves two 'formal' programmes: The Human Rights School (Folkschool) and the Internship programme. But the scope of the AHRC's Capacity Building reaches far beyond these two programmes.

It is a powerful model of capacity building.

3. This evaluation met numerous people who are very eager to communicate the tremendous respect, appreciation and gratitude they feel for AHRC. Several people express that AHRC has given them new perspective, 'saved their lives'. AHRC, they say, stood with them after they had experienced torture (William) or lost their husband (Florence), or lost a child or a father (Farooq) in their human rights work ... many of them experienced that AHRC was able to offer them participation in one of the Folkschools or an internship, and these experiences could be decisive for them in finding new perspectives, finding ways for self-healing, and sometimes become a human rights leader themselves.
4. AHRC leadership, staff and local partners spend considerable time and attention listening to and dialoguing with participants. AHRC staff give personal advice and support to trainees, supporting processes of healing and empowerment towards human rights leadership. Indeed, AHRC leadership is seen to actually play the role of an *educator, adviser and humane friend*. This is an invaluable aspect of the organization.

Recommendation

- To develop a Human Rights School lesson on "Caring Organisation".

⁹⁶ As remarked by Nepal desk in charge Juliette Thibaud, the term "Capacity Building" suggests a one-way process whereas AHRC perceives capacity building as a dynamic two-way process.

4. Communication and Information Technology Programme

The performance and outcome of the IT desk is a cross cutting performance for all AHRC programs – IT is a core-business of the AHRC/ALRC.

Outcome

For Communication and Information Technology, AHRC has developed 4 indicators of outcome⁹⁷:

- A wide audience receives documentation, advocacy and analysis material and has access to it in the internet,
- Local and international supporters are provided with efficient means to engage in Asian Human Rights campaigns,
- Target audiences have multiple ways to interact with the organization and with the public,
- Competitive ICTs are used for Human Rights activities and programmes.

The desk systematically addresses these indicators in the work report and documents the outcome realized in the period 2010-2012⁹⁸ in a convincing way.

There is some scope for refining the outcome indicators⁹⁹.

IT tools for assessment of outcome

Development of tools for assessment of overall outcome is an aspect of the performance of the IT desk. This is one of the few areas that allows for a more detailed quantitative outcome assessment.

AHRC has considerably improved its IT-tools for monitoring outcome in recent years, as is evident from last three Annual Reports¹⁰⁰.

For example, since 2011 AHRC has started to include statistics on its social network; and AHRC has included a list with a systematic comparison of its e-mail subscriber data statistics¹⁰¹.

AHRC/ALRC can now measure:

- how many Urgent Appeals are sent out,
- how many at least have been viewed, by when¹⁰²,
- how many people have responded to the Urgent Appeal by taking action – through the Urgent Appeal Online Response system (UA-ORS - blue button) – for discussion of the ‘blue button’ see chapter 4.1 – Urgent Appeals,
- how often the UA was read online (website statistics),
- the number of online media references - using the Meltwater system¹⁰³.

Till here the ‘results chain’ can actually be measured with SMART indicators. Further steps in the results chain can’t be measured with quantitative SMART indicators.

These data about public interest and response to Urgent Appeals on Human Rights Violations can be analysed and they may point to the need for UA Update work – strengthening the case, increasing the

⁹⁷AHRC/ALRC Program Monitoring and Evaluation Manual, p 43

⁹⁸ AHRC /ALRC Work Report 2011 p 78-89

⁹⁹ ALRC: Online advocacy tools for Human Rights in Asia, 2012, p 10 proposes 3 sets of indicators. Indicators may be refined, for example how could they include beneficiary perspective indicators? Is there a mechanism to involve ‘those who matter most’ in monitoring? Can more qualitative indicators be developed?

¹⁰⁰ AHRC/ALRC: Work Report 2009, 2010, 2011, p 78-89;

¹⁰¹Annual Report 2011 p 83

¹⁰²For example: at the day of writing this paragraph, AHRC has sent out an UA on Burma. The electronic data system informs that:the UA was sent out 14.6.2012 10.02 am; by 5 pm it was viewed by at least 219 subscribers. We know that there were more who can’t be measured due to email settings.

¹⁰³ Meltwater is to be interpreted with care as sometimes AHRC is not mentioned explicitly when reporting a case so the actual outcome may be higher.

momentum of the wider Human Rights and Rule of Law issue. So, the data have become an invaluable source for AHRC to strengthen its Human Rights advocacy using online communication tools.

Norman Voss, head of the IT desk: “We have to be careful. There are always shortcomings. We have to critically interpret the data”¹⁰⁴. For example: “a certain number of people visiting our website don’t visit the website out of a genuine concern with Human Rights, but out of a certain voyeurism on torture; there are indications that UAs with a ‘sensational’ title attract more visitors”.

The IT desk experienced several instances of ‘unexpected outcome’.

- the media attention in response to the Papua torture video,
- huge peak of Pakistani respondents after being mentioned at Reddit,
- sustained growth of the AHRC email list Weekly Digest (consistently the highest growth list),
- traffic through the Indonesian Constitution, one third of all AHRC’s website traffic.

Web-based Communication and Advocacy

In Asia, AHRC is the most prominent Human Rights organization using web based Communication and Advocacy tools. AHRC’s comparative advantage derives from a combination of four factors:

- its IT expertise,
- its Human Rights expertise,
- the 3-tier structure (local-regional-international),
- the efficient IT-conducive work environment of Hong Kong.

AHRC/ALRC is using 10 channels for its Human Rights advocacy work, three of which were newly introduced in the period 2010-2012 (RSS, Podcast, Kindle e-Books). This selection covers all major mass communication channels.

A few figures for the period 2011-2012:

- The total number of visitors to the website www.humanrights.asia in the period May 2011-May 2012 was 544,801, which is 1,500 per day, of which 80% new and 20% returning visitors; about half of these visits originate from the AHRC/ALRC working countries (check?) and half from all over Asia. All AHRC/ALRC sites together: 100,000 visitors per month,
- **A major significant outcome: The AHRC/ALRC website ranked no. 1 in search results for the search term “Human Rights Asia” in all major search engines (Google, Bing, Yahoo),**¹⁰⁵
- Social networks: the AHRC Twitter channel and Facebook page showed a steady and consistent growth rate in the period 2010-2012,¹⁰⁶
- In 2011 3,500,000 email messages and documents were sent out to direct subscribers,
- The total number of subscribers of the whole list system grew by 14 % in 2011,
- The number of press releases grew by 65%, the number of Urgent Appeals sent out increased significantly (30% increase),
- The launch of podcasts in 2011 resulted in considerable output of audio files,
- The number of email list subscribers is highest in Pakistan: 2850 users by May 2012, followed by India – 1891, Thailand – 1111, and Sri Lanka Philippines Burma Indonesia Bangladesh – ranging from 857 - 660¹⁰⁷,
- The countries with the relatively highest number of AHRC web visitors are Sri Lanka and South Korea¹⁰⁸,

AHRC is constantly monitoring and improving its Urgent Appeal Online Response System. Based on an analysis of the present IT capacity AHRC/ALRC has developed plans for strengthening its

¹⁰⁴Norman Voss, 15 June, 2012

¹⁰⁵ Work Report 2011, AHRC / ALRC, p 82

¹⁰⁶ Work Report 2010, AHRC / ALRC, Work Report 2011, AHRC / ALRC, p 83

¹⁰⁷ Confirmed Users of Email Lists as of May 2012.

¹⁰⁸Web visits in last 12 months per 1,000,000 persons by country. The relatively highest number of visitors from Indonesia, due to reference to the Constitution, is not included here.

effectiveness including changes to the website, a fax function, user friendly navigations and location registration¹⁰⁹. Through these, outcome is expected to increase, with expectedly increased and extended support to victims and more people being engaged in advocacy and reform process for human rights in Asia.

Conclusions

1. In Asia, AHRC is the most prominent Human Rights organization using web based Communication and Advocacy tools. AHRC's comparative advantage derives from a combination of four factors:
 - a. its IT expertise,
 - b. its Human Rights expertise,
 - c. the 3-tier structure (local-regional-international),
 - d. the efficient IT-conducive work environment of Hong Kong.
2. In recent years AHRC has made a qualitative leap forward in not only using IT for advocacy but also using IT as a tool for self-monitoring thereby further strengthening the *response* to Human Rights advocacy: monitoring *Outcome*.
3. AHRC has considerably improved and specified its IT-tools for monitoring Outcome in the period 2010-2012, which is evident from last 3 Annual Reports,
4. AHRC has been highly effective and prominent in deploying IT as a tool for Human Rights advocacy as evidenced from website statistics and as compared with other international Human Rights organisations,
5. **The excellent search engine ranking of number 1 for 'Human Rights Asia' among all major search engines (Google, Bing, Yahoo) is a strong outcome indicator indicating the significance of the AHRC and its website for online human rights advocacy,**
6. The AHRC Pakistan program in particular has been highly effective in deploying IT as a tool for Human Rights advocacy; the Outcome of the AHRC Pakistan desk is significant, as reflected in the growth of the distribution network and the prominent ranking of Pakistan among the top 100 ORS-responses.

Recommendations

- The website has a search system for online data including relevant human rights issues of interest; the list of issues may be complemented¹¹⁰.
- Indicators may be refined, for example how could they include beneficiary perspective indicators? Is there a mechanism to involve 'those who matter most' in monitoring? Can more qualitative indicators be developed?

¹⁰⁹ ALRC: Online advocacy tools for Human Rights in Asia, 2012

¹¹⁰e.g., LGBT is not there.

5. The Right to Food Programme

The Right to Food programme 2010-2012 was not elaborated in much detail in the Work Programme¹¹¹. It mentions broadly three areas: contact with poorest communities, data collection, campaigning¹¹².

The programme, started in 1996¹¹³, was given new impetus in 2007 with one staff member given responsibility to do field work, develop a deeper understanding of Right to Food issues and priorities in Asia, identify partners, and basically develop the programme¹¹⁴. Conceptualising was slow and the programme actually took off after 2009, first in India and then also in other countries.

The emphasis of the programme on India is justified, as 'India's Right to Food' is full of paradoxes: India is home to the largest number of hungry people in the world¹¹⁵, conditions have not improved over the last 20 years¹¹⁶, India has one of the strongest Right to Food movements internationally and its strategies are inspiring Right to Food movements elsewhere in the world – in spite of continuing hunger championship¹¹⁷.

The 2009 report claims as a major outcome that “our work in the year 2009 has resulted in pushing the government to acknowledge that the situation of food security in India is bad” - but does not provide details to substantiate this claim.¹¹⁸

RfT interventions in project period 2010-2012¹¹⁹ include the following:

Hunger Alerts were issued (India, incidentally Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh), increasingly jointly with partners. An analysis of the Right To Food context is produced for the Annual Yearbook, covering India¹²⁰, Nepal¹²¹ e.a. Focus is on inter-linkage with other right issues, non-transparent and non-participatory processes, caste base discrimination and corruption.

¹¹¹AHRC/ALRC Work Programme 2010-2012 p 40.

¹¹² AHRC/ALRC PME Manual p 36. Indicators on the Right to Food programme in the PME Manual are not SMART and SPICED, do not cover 'most significant indicators', and means of verification are exclusively quantitative.

¹¹³ AHRC organized a People's Tribunal on Food Scarcity and Militarisation in Burma. See AHRC: The Voice of the Hungry Nation, 1999.

¹¹⁴ Interview with Ju Jin, June 2012, and with Bijo Francis, June 2012.

¹¹⁵One third of all hungry people live in India; 42% of Indian children under 5 are under-weight. In the Global Hunger Index 2008 India ranks 66 out of 88. According to the India State Hunger Index (ISHI), developed by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), in Madhya Pradesh more people suffer from hunger than in Ethiopia. See International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI): India State Hunger Index, 2010.

The 2011 Hunger and Malnutrition Report by Naandi Foundation led Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to admit malnutrition is "a national shame". To this, AHRC reacted with a bitter analysis: "The role the law enforcement agencies in the country have played in securing this despicable fate to the nation is substantial. Yet, none has the honesty to admit it".

<http://www.humanrights.asia/news/ahrc-news/AHRC-STM-010-2012/>

¹¹⁶The number of hungry people in India (220 million) has not decreased compared to 20 years ago. Studies on Hunger and Public action in India are still equally relevant. P. Sainat: Everyone Loves A Good Drought, Penguin India 1996; Jean Dreze: Democracy and the Right to Food, in: Economic and Political Weekly, April 2004, 1723 -1734; Sen, Amartya: Nobody Need Starve. Granta, Cambridge, 1995.

¹¹⁷2011 PUCL litigation to India's Supreme Court; S.Vivek and B.Guha-Khasnabis, Rights Based Approach To Development: Lessons From The Right To Food Movement, in Food Insecurity, Vulnerability and Human Rights Failure, Studies in Development Economics and Policy, Basingstoke, UK, 2007.

¹¹⁸AHRC/ALRC Report 2009 p 64 ff: "From a point where the governments - particularly in India where the work was mostly concentrated during the year 2009 - used to blindly deny reports about malnutrition and starvation deaths, our work in the year 2009 has resulted in pushing the government to acknowledge that the situation of food security in India is bad, if not worse (according to the government)".

¹¹⁹ Work reports 2009-2011; Ju Jin: Program paper on the right to food program in the AHRC, 2011.

¹²⁰AHRC: The State of Human Rights in Eleven Asian Nations – 2010: India: Government has no interest to eradicate hunger and child malnutrition, p 126-137; AHRC: The State of Human Rights in Ten Asian Nations – 2011: India: Gerrymandering the right to food to suit a development paradigm, page 108-119. See also: SachinJain: Hunger, Poverty & Climate Change in Madhya Pradesh. A Ground Report. Published by ALRC and VSS. Bhopal, 2011. Sachin Jain: India's National Food Security Act: Entitlement of Hunger. In: Ethics in Action, vol 4 nr 2, April, 2010, p 3-6. Sachin Jain: India, a corpse of rights without justice as its soul, in: Article 2, vol 11

In India the RtF desk established networks in MP and Odisha¹²². The RtF programme now has 28 partners¹²³. In MP it created a working agreement with Spandan, an NGO that had raised the issue of the starvation of Korku children in Khandwa, MP. AHRC issued a Hunger Alert that had forced the government to change its denial attitude. The AHRC-Spandan/Right to Food Campaign interface resulted in more emphasis on grassroots capacity building, case documentation, and participation in national level campaign. In Odisha and MP partnership with the State Advisors to Commissioners, Supreme Court of India appeared successful and was strengthened in the continuous process of Hunger Alert cases; and this reportedly “changed the denial mode of the government”¹²⁴. The State advisor with AHRC and partners are planning a round table on food security in 2012. The desk ‘sits on top of’ new Right to Food developments in India.¹²⁵

In Nepal and The Philippines (Negros) Folkschools were organized on a human rights perspective on food security and land issues. In India Folkschools were organized in Rajasthan, and in MP and Odisha.

In Bangladesh a main issue remained corruption w.r.t. allowance cards.

Nepal: Active partnership with FIAN-Nepal was successful in raising several right to food violation cases in 2010-2011.

In Pakistan, PFF (Pakistan Fisherfolk Forum) was identified as a strong partner; AHRC is constantly following up on their struggle against goons and land grabbers.

The Indonesia (Papua) RtF programme identified land grabbing as one of the issues.

The Internship programme has been helpful in strengthening partnerships.

A gender perspective is sometimes mentioned, but mostly missing or confused with ‘attention for women and children’, or ‘demonstrating that women and children are victims’.¹²⁶

Choice of partners in India gives a mixed picture: the AHRC RtF partner network includes the most prominent movements in the field of Right to Food and ‘strategic partners’ like the State Advisors to Supreme Court Commissioners; some of the partners however seem to not be part of major discourses within India’s social movements. The RtF desk may want to reflect on criteria for partnership.¹²⁷

Outcome

There is significant evidence of outcome.

1. Over a lakh ‘missing’ households were included into the PDS system. Rajkishore Mishra: “AHRC’s partners managed to include over 100,000 households in Odisha into the PDS system: those who were not having an entitlement card. We successfully raised this issue with the Supreme Court. We mobilized NGOs to advocate these issues before the Commissioner”.¹²⁸

no 1, March 2012, p 43-52. Avinash Pandey: Eradicating Hunger requires concrete Action, not hollow promises! In: Article 2, vol 11 no 1, March 2012, p 37-42.

¹²¹AHRC: The State of Human Rights in Eleven Asian Nations – 2010, Nepal: p. 189

¹²²including Vikas Samvad, Spandan, SPREAD

¹²³Interview with Bijo Francis, June 2012

¹²⁴AHRC/ALRC Work Report 2011 p 62-63; Sachin Jain, Vikas Samvad; Rajkishore Mishra.

¹²⁵E.g. “India needs a comprehensive food security legislation”: Secretariat of Right to Food Campaign of India, open letter to Prime Minister of India, 23 July 2012.

¹²⁶There is an apparent confusion of what a gender perspective is. See AHRC/ALRC 2009 Work report page 64, Foot note 1: “While reporting individual ... starvation, it is no point ... providing gender perspective since in the cases reported... when the whole family suffers from .. starvation, it is wrong to approach the issue with the preconceived notion that the males are in a better condition than the females in the victim family. The approach is counterproductive...”

¹²⁷See Ju Jin: Program paper on the right to food program in the AHRC, 2011, par. 5 This was also discussed with Bijo Francis, June 2012. Francis: current indicators for partners are: is the partner 1. willing to go for longterm partnership? 2. Rooted on the ground? 3. Capable and sensitive in dealing with victims? 4. Gender sensitive? No discrimination?

¹²⁸Interview with Rajkishore Mishra, State Advisor to Commissioners, Supreme Court of India, June 2012, Hong Kong

2. State Governments of Madhya Pradesh and Odisha publicly acknowledged that hunger, malnutrition and starvation occur in MP and Odisha. “This is a significant outcome as it was the first time that Governments stopped denying that starvation occurs, despite the efforts of human rights groups reporting and complaining for many years. Both State Governments expressed their responsibility. This means that international Hunger Alerts and appeals combined with internal pressure on Government agencies on the cases reported can make a difference”¹²⁹. The changes were reported in the media and reflected in the dialogues between the local partner groups and government agencies.
3. More partners are eager to use the Hunger Alert programme as a tool of intervention.¹³⁰ For example, two Right to Food coordinators from West Bengal, both experienced women, are bringing in cases for the Hunger Alert programme.
4. The national discourse on the Right to Food was strengthened in MP and Odisha. Denying, discriminating statements of the Government are immediately confronted.¹³¹
5. Local discourse: In Odisha issues pertaining to Right to Food and underlying factors can now be discussed at Government level thanks to the effective AHRC partner network.
6. Partners are jointly taking action to effectively address Right to Food. This can not immediately be attributed to AHRC, but AHRC tends to bring in: a clear rights perspective and expertise in pressurizing the Government.
7. Protection for Human Rights Defenders is strengthened: advocating the Human Rights Defenders whose reports are denied by the governments¹³²; providing legal redress for those facing fabricated charges or threat¹³³; arranging support from communities by preparing evidence to support the case; arranging solidarity from other HR groups;
8. Right to Food is increasingly integrated in all AHRC country desks.

The observed outcome can to a considerable extent be attributed to the efforts of AHRC and its partners.

Partners’ Perceptions

Perceptions of partners on the cooperation with AHRC
Rajkishor Mishra, State Advisor to Commissioners, Supreme Court of India¹³⁴,
about his partnership with AHRC:

“While working with AHRC we are working on larger issues.

¹²⁹ See the AHRC statement on the acknowledgement of the Madhya Pradesh government.

<http://www.humanrights.asia/resources/journals-magazines/eia/eiav4n2/confessions-and-blame-will-not-save-30-000-children-destined-to-die-this-year> As AHRC reports the cases, the administration took more concrete and substantial steps for investigation and relieves. <http://www.humanrights.asia/news/hunger-alerts/AHRC-HAU-001-2011> Interview with Bijo Francis, June 2012. See also: Confessions and blame will not save 30,000 children destined to die this year: Ethics in Action, vol 4 nr 2 April 2010, p 7-9

¹³⁰ Communication with Bijo Francis, June 2012.

¹³¹ For example: “In MP we exposed the controversial statement of the Chairperson of MP State Commission for Protection of Child Rights, Justice Ms. Sheela Khanna, September 2010 – saying: ‘My suggestion is to appoint a Brahmin priest in each of the Nutrition Centres and require the priest to verify the horoscope of every child... if the priest is of the opinion that the child will grow into a good citizen of this country, it must be provided treatment ... for the rest let us just leave them to their fate.. if not where dowe stop? .. we cannot spendgovernment money like this...’. The publication caused a hue and cry; AHRC forced government people to admit that they are making mistakes”. Bijo Francis, oral communication, 20 June 2012. See AHRC: The State of Human Rights in eleven Asian Nations, 2010, p.95.

¹³² In that sense AHRC protected a group in MP.

¹³³ AHRC provided financial support for legal aid of the human rights defenders of Pakistan Fisher Folk Forum and plan to provide legal aid for the human rights defenders of Bangladesh facing threat and false charges after reporting the right to food violation case which was already discussed in 2011.

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¹³⁴ Interview with Rajkishor Mishra, June 2012, Hong Kong

Widespread issues that need policy addressing.
Right to Food. Corruption. Displacement. Discrimination based on caste.
AHRC helped us relating with larger policies.
We collaborate on these”.

Most Significant Outcome

Most Significant outcome of the Right to Food Programme:

1. AHRC is now part of the 2 national movements in India that matter to Rights to Food: the National Alliance of People’s Movements, and the National Right to Food Campaign.
2. AHRC has a broad partner network in India.
3. More people are seeing Right to Food as a Human Rights issue.
4. The India Right to Food programme can be a motor, motivator, example, perhaps even model, for the Right to Food work in other countries.

Recommendations

- Objectives and outcome indicators may be revisited.
- The Right to Food programme requires a shared and deeper understanding among AHRC staff. Bijo Francis, AHRC: “But not many AHRC staff have that field experience”.
- Gender in relation to Right to Food needs to be understood in a more comprehensive way. A clear gender perspective may make the programme much stronger and contribute to sustainable impact.
- The Right to Food desk may want to reflect on its strategy, in particular in the vast “CBO/CSO/NGO movement landscape” in India, in view of strengths and limitations, the relative advantages of AHRC, its ‘niche’ in the Right to Food campaign, criteria for partnership.

6. International Human Rights Advocacy

The strategic added value of a regional approach

The AHRC and ALRC's joint international advocacy programme¹³⁵ (hereafter the ALRC) has become a prominent regional voice internationally connecting domestic work with international actors. The fact that the ALRC and AHRC are regional organisations provides a number of strategic advantages when carrying out international advocacy resulting in added value concerning outcome, as compared to non-regional organisations.

As the organisations are based in Hong Kong they can be vocal about sensitive issues that local NGOs have to be careful about for fear of retaliation. The country desks have the expertise, access to local key informants and short communication lines that make them a leading actor in highlighting the alarming human rights realities in the Asian region. The organisation capitalizes on its experiences, database and expertise on human rights in Asia through the country desks. Having a regional overview of human rights violations and systemic deficiencies in Asia, ALRC is in a position to prioritise and contextualize human rights violations. Moreover, as national-level NGOs often do not have the resources and contacts to conduct advocacy at an international level they sometimes may choose to work through ALRC.

The regional approach pays off. It adds to outcome.

- The organisation is the provider of the largest number of cases to the UN Special Procedures from Asia.
- Along with Forum Asia, ALRC represents Asia within the strategic network of NGOs working at the Human Rights Council (HRC-Net)¹³⁶. In this position the ALRC can 'bridge' international actors and Asian NGOs involving them in international campaigns.
- Given its regional expertise the organisation is well placed to advise on which country contexts should be considered regional priorities and feed accurate, up to date information into advocacy concerning these at the international level – the ALRC has played such a role concerning Sri Lanka and Burma over the years for example, as these have been priorities of concern for the Human Rights Council in the region.
- The ALRC manages to bring to the attention of the international community concerns that may not be covered otherwise¹³⁷. International attention for several of these concerns can be ascribed to ALRC as it is the only NGO at HRC bringing up these issues.
- An additional value of being a regional organisation with a mixed staff is that the organisation given its experience has managed to 'translate' human rights concerns to the relevant mechanisms at EU and international level,
- The regional identity has enabled ALRC to gain accumulated experience in the working of the international human rights mechanisms; this experience is shared with other human rights actors in expert meetings and trainings and through producing tools to assist local NGOs in effective human rights advocacy.
- The ALRC is the Asian organisation that has submitted the greatest number of reports on Asian countries to the Universal Periodic Review system and from this has gained experience that makes it a leading actor in making use of the UPR¹³⁸. The organisation has shared this experience in trainings with other NGOs, which has, for example in the case of Thailand, assisted in the

¹³⁵The AHRC and ALRC conduct much of their international advocacy through a programme under the ALRC, known as the Asia Europe Dialogue programme (AED). The AED programme has been funded by EED. For simplicity, this document shall refer to the ALRC concerning such activities.

¹³⁶AHRC/ALRC Work Report 2010 p 180, AHRC/ALRC Work Report 2011 p 296

¹³⁷ Such as forced disappearances in Nepal – see Work Report 2010-2011 for details

¹³⁸ Michael Anthony: Asia Europe Dialogue programme information for Sida Evaluation, May 2012, unpublished report p 3

submission of a joint coalition report on the Thai UPR by Thai civil society actors and subsequent advocacy in Geneva.

- As a regional organisation ALRC is in a position to play a role in cross-regional solidarity campaigns and as such in bridging Asian activists and activists in other regions. International campaigns have greater credibility and weight as they represent a stronger international human rights voice. International solidarity also adds to a comparative perspective that has been effective in strengthening strategies based upon lessons learned in other human rights contexts.

These are all evident instances of outcome that can be attributed to the ALRC international advocacy programme.

Outcome of the International Advocacy Programme according to indicators

The ALRC international advocacy programme formulated 3 areas of Outcome in the PME Manual that will be systematically addressed here. The desk prepared an excellent document¹³⁹ substantiating the assessment of the outcome of ALRC's international advocacy programme which is cited in this paragraph *in extenso*¹⁴⁰.

Expected Outcome 1. The Human Rights Council, UN experts and other stakeholders are better informed about human rights in Asia.

There is clear evidence that ALRC contributes significantly to informing the international human rights system regarding human rights in Asia.

ALRC/AHRC are being recognized as being amongst the top international actors on Asian human rights advocacy at the international level.

AHRC/ALRC are major contributors of information to the UN, including near-daily submission of cases of human rights violations through the Urgent Appeals,

The organisation coordinates in-depth analysis provided to the UN system including written submissions to the HRC, reports to the UPR process and Treaty Bodies, and follow-up communications and meetings with the Special Procedures.

Through the very nature of the work it is difficult to 'isolate' outcome and attribution in this area, because *the more outcome there is, the more it tends to be implicit*.

Three indicators are used to assess outcome¹⁴¹:

1. The number of human rights issues raised at UN and other international forums,
2. Number of oral & written submissions made at UN and other international forums,
3. Reproduction and use of information published by ALRC/AHRC.

As for indicator 1 and 3, there is evidence of considerable outcome.

ALRC has submitted the most written statements to the Human Rights Council from Asia and is considered one of the greatest contributors in the world¹⁴². ALRC attended nearly all Council sessions and made numerous oral interventions to the HRC plenary¹⁴³. ALRC made a large number of

¹³⁹ Michael Anthony: Asia Europe Dialogue Programme Input concerning the Outcome Assessment Framework Document, unpublished document, June 2012

¹⁴⁰ This assessment of outcome of the international advocacy programme of the AHRC/ALRC is based on the following documents and inputs: In the first place: Michael Anthony: Asia Europe Dialogue Programme Input concerning the Outcome Assessment Framework Document, unpublished document, June 2012; Michael Anthony: Asia Europe Dialogue programme information for Sida Evaluation, unpublished report, May 2012; Skype interview with Michael Anthony 25 May 2012; Also: AHRC/ALRC Work Programme for the years 2010-2012; AHRC/ALRC Work Report 2009, 2010, 2011; AHRC/ALRC Program Monitoring and Evaluation Manual 2011; interviews with country desks; Michael Anthony: The utility of the UN Human Rights Council concerning Asia: Opportunities and obstacles, Ethics in Action, vol 5 no 3 June 2011: <http://www.ethicsinaction.asia/archive/2011-ethics-in-action/vol.-5-no.-3-june-2011/the-utility-of-the-un-human-rights-council>; other AHRC/ALRC publications in Article 2 and on internet; Urgent Appeals.

¹⁴¹ See AHRC/ALRC 2010-2012 work programme and PME Manual.

¹⁴² See list of written and oral interventions to the HRC, AHRC/ALRC Work Report 2010 p 189 ff; AHRC/ALRC Work Report 2011, page 306 ff

¹⁴³ see www.alrc.net - ALRC and UN

submissions to the UPR¹⁴⁴: 12 2008-2011, 6 since 2011. Few NGOs submitted this many UPR reports, and the reports are increasingly effective in terms of impacting the UPR process – see below.

Concerning indicator 3, dissemination tracking shows that written and oral statements are not only included in official documents on the relevant session of the Council on the OHCHR's website, but also frequently redistributed on other human rights websites and quoted in international press coverage.

In terms of the qualitative aspect of the objective to better inform the international system ALRC has an advantage as a regional organization in that it submits inputs on many countries which provides it with frequent opportunities to learn how to be more effective.

NGOs, UN experts and staff and some state representatives have commended the ALRC staff on its written and oral interventions. HRC officials have mentioned that they find the oral interventions to be the best qualitatively of all NGO interventions. Focus of the communications is on quality, in terms of clarity and strategic approach: e.g., meeting the special requirements for communications with UPR, Special Procedures, HRC; understanding the target audience and the kind of information required to be credible and relevant to those audiences, in order to better inform them. The example of the UPR report and related advocacy on Indonesia –below- provides a convincing example of how the programme approaches this mechanism with a targeted advocacy strategy for optimal outcome.

Another example of quality activities: the high-level panel discussions at the HRC on forced disappearances and impunity¹⁴⁵. The programme received feedback from participants that these were some of the most relevant side events they had seen at the UN. The side events were moderated and organized by AED programme staff, and included prominent speakers from around the world.¹⁴⁶

Related to the side events was the pursuit of advocacy concerning impunity. The programme followed and provided input to the government of Argentina's efforts to create the new Special Procedures mandate on impunity¹⁴⁷, and presented supporting examples from Asia. The creation of the new mandate is considered a very positive development.

Generally a challenge for ALRC is that it approaches human rights through a Rule of Law and Institutional Reform lens and it is difficult to highlight this perspective at the international forum as there is often a resistance to address root causes of human rights violations. The challenge is to go beyond the usual symptom approach which is often limited to denouncing human rights violations. The advocacy work on impunity is one way of addressing root causes and in this context the Special Procedures mandate creates a new window for ALRC to make its expertise in this field felt.

It can be concluded that there is convincing evidence that, through a combination of a high number and high quality submissions and activities, the ALRC has been able to better inform the HRC, UN experts and other stakeholders about human rights in Asia.

How precisely do we substantiate that we can attribute this outcome to the interventions of ALRC and partners?

The ALRC provides convincing evidence that the outcome can to a considerable extent be attributed to the ALRC and partners. Arguments mentioned in this context are:

1. HRC and UN actors regard AHRCAs among the most prominent human rights organisations. Regular communications by country desks (Urgent Appeals) to UN expert Special Procedures mechanisms provide quantitative evidence of attribution. Special Rapporteur Manfred Nowak has

¹⁴⁴<http://www.alrc.net/doc/mainfile.php/upr/>

¹⁴⁵full details are included in the work reports 2010, 2011 p 308 ff

¹⁴⁶ Prominent NGO speakers, UN experts such as former Special Rapporteur on torture Manfred Nowak, and world-renowned Spanish Judge Baltasar Garzon.

¹⁴⁷United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence; the position was created by Human Rights Council Resolution 18/7 of 29.9.2011, calling for a victim-centred, gender-sensitive approach; the first Special Rapporteur appointed in March 2012.

stated that AHRC is the greatest provider of individual cases to Special Procedures in Asia. Support to Special Rapporteurs is also mentioned in relation to recent interventions.¹⁴⁸

2. 'Side events', organised by the ALRC, are seen as effectively contributing to targeted advocacy,
3. ALRC's prominence as an actor at the HRC representing the Asian region: its inclusion as one of two Asian NGOs,
4. AHRC's large e-mail dissemination lists, the prominence of the organisations' websites, and the number of visitors from different parts of the world are quantifiable indicators of attribution.

Expected Outcome 2: The UN human rights mechanisms become more responsive to the human rights issues in Asian countries.

Is there evidence that this outcome is actually happening?

The ALRC's international advocacy programme argues that yes, this outcome is happening. The desk mentions ALRC's inputs in the Universal Periodic Review as a main example, for "the UPR provides a useful barometer of how much of ALRC's information is taken up by the UN". Reports submitted by NGOs for the UPR are compiled into a single summary report by the OHCHR. The AED programme is fine tuning its communication strategy to include its issues in the OHCHR's stakeholders report. Since the UPR is a new process, which everyone is still learning to use most effectively, this is still 'work in progress'. Recent reports on Indonesia and Pakistan were produced in close collaboration with the AHRC country desks.

Indicators:

1. Quantitative: the nr of responses by Special Procedures, Treaty Bodies and States,
2. Qualitative: the relevance of international interventions to priority human rights situations in Asia. This indicator reflects the 'core mission' of ALRC's international advocacy work: better comprehension of priority human rights issues and root causes in Asia and realistic approaches, to make international action more relevant, realistic and capable of delivering results.

Can outcome be attributed to ALRC? Are UN mechanisms more responsive to Asian Human Rights and can that be attributed to ALRC?

The ALRC's programme responds affirmatively referring to the following indicators:

- Direct responses to ALRC and AHRC input by Special Procedures, and also by a number of Asian states (the latter to outright deny the allegations, of course),
- Special Procedures intervene with governments based on Urgent Appeals and other interventions by the organizations,
- the Burma desk - the only desk having a Special Rapporteur dedicated to monitoring human rights - provides an excellent example of how to influence a Special Procedure; many issues provided by the desk are taken up by the mandate,
- Treaty Bodies include information submitted by NGOs in their reviews of States' compliance with their obligations under relevant treaties. AHRC's advocacy at the Committee Against Torture (CAT) on Sri Lanka's state report is a recent example.
- The UPR is used as an example of quantifying outcome. The ALRC programme made a quantitative assessment of the number of times the ALRC report was cited in the OHCHR report¹⁴⁹. This can be considered a SMART assessment of a limited but relevant aspect of outcome.
- With regard to qualitative outcome the Desk asks: Does ALRC provide the information that appears to work *best*?¹⁵⁰ *What works best?*

¹⁴⁸For example, on independence of judges and lawyers in Pakistan during a country visit in May. M. Anthony June 2012 p 4

¹⁴⁹ Number of times ALRC report was cited in OHCHR report: Bangladesh 6; Cambodia 21; India 3+9; Indonesia 10+26; Myanmar 5; Nepal 15; Pakistan 12; Philippines 5+9; Sri Lanka 5; Thailand 5. M. Anthony, June 2012 p 6.

¹⁵⁰ The AED desk concludes that "submissions ... as part of large coalitions tend to be cited more by the OHCHR"; "reports that focus on a limited set of issues tend to be cited less"; "reports that include comments on the implementation of first cycle recommendations are likely to be cited more". "The AED programme will be incorporating these findings into future reporting efforts." Michael Anthony, Asia – Europe Dialogue Programme input concerning the Outcome Assessment

- A clear example of advocacy outcome that can be directly **attributed to the ALRC** concerning Nepal in the June 2012, 20th session of the HRC. The ALRC worked with national Nepali partner Advocacy Forum to provide briefing documents, make statements to the HRC and organized a side event concerning the worsening situation in Nepal and the need for international attention and action. The ALRC lobbied numerous states, including the US, UK, Switzerland, Norway and Denmark, for example, and was able to lobby the EU to raise the issue of Nepal in a statement to the HRC, which cited many of the ALRC and Advocacy Forum's key concerns. The ALRC was the only organization lobbying concerning Nepal at the session, making this outcome clearly attributable to it and its partner's efforts. This has also been confirmed by contacts from governments lobbied by the programme.¹⁵¹ This is a rare example where attribution can be given without doubt. In most cases ALRC plays a role but attribution must be shared with others.
 - A **negative** example may also be mentioned here. ALRC has been a strong voice concerning abuses in Sri Lanka during the HRC's regular sessions and the Special Session held in May 2009. Despite advocacy efforts, the outcome of the Special Session was a disappointment, with a resolution being produced based on Sri Lanka's political allies, who congratulate the government of Sri Lanka for winning the war. Clearly, attribution depends very much on actors and factors at work in the wider political context.
 - On the contrary, a recent resolution on Sri Lanka in the 2011 March session of the Council included a reference to the need to "enact rule of law reforms" in Sri Lanka. This issue has been at the heart of AHRC country desk's work for many years, so the inclusion of this issue in the resolution is a positive outcome. It is not possible to directly attribute this outcome to AHRC, although it is highly likely that the outcome is partially attributable to the work of AHRC/ALRC.
- So, the international advocacy work provides a wide range of examples in terms of outcome and attribution.

Outcome 3. Asian human rights movements gain experience and ability in cooperating with international human rights networks and using the UN human rights mechanisms.

There is evidence that this outcome is actually happening. The ALRC programme gives several examples of how it has assisted ALRC partners to gain capacity in cooperating with international human rights networks and UN mechanisms. The programme mentions in particular:

- Involvement of national-level partners in international campaigns (HRC-Net),
- Collaboration with partners in advocacy, like UPR reports submitted jointly with KontraS Indonesia and with the Nepalese NGO Advocacy Forum,
- Collaboration with partners on UN mechanisms like HRC,
- Partner support through information and capacity-building tools, like an article on the international HR system¹⁵² and a Human Rights School lesson on UPR¹⁵³.

Framework Document, unpublished, June 2012, page 6. See also the "Most Significant Outcome" at the end of this paragraph.

¹⁵¹ Another example of direct attribution to the ALRC's international advocacy is the resolution of the 5th Special Session of the Human Rights Council concerning Myanmar in response to the crackdown on Burmese monks in the so-called "Saffron revolution." ALRC was directly responsible for including "enforced disappearances". Human Rights Council, 5th Special Session: Resolution S-51: Situation of Human Rights in Myanmar, 2.10.2007, Operative Paragraph number 1. ALRC was the only organisation that had documented cases of forced disappearances of monks and was able to inform then-EU President Portugal as well as other European delegations to have the issue included in the resolution.

¹⁵² Michael Anthony: The utility of the UN Human Rights Council concerning Asia: Opportunities and obstacles, Ethics in Action, vol 5 no 3 June 2011:

<http://www.ethicsinaction.asia/archive/2011-ethics-in-action/vol.-5-no.-3-june-2011/the-utility-of-the-un-human-rights-council>

¹⁵³ <http://www.humanrights.asia/resources/journals-magazines/hrschool/lesson-series-66-universal-periodic-review>.

Most Significant Outcome

Most significant outcome

An example of successful international advocacy is the report submitted jointly by ALRC and Indonesian NGO KontraS¹⁵⁴ for the Indonesian UPR review, May 2012.

The procedure is that OHCHR prepares a report based on the input of all civil society reports submitted. The aim of submitting a report is thus to be quoted as much as possible with the key issues being included. So, the outcome of ALRC's advocacy can be measured quantitatively, in terms of the number of times the ALRC-KontraS report is cited, and qualitatively, with an assessment of whether key issues have been taken up.

Having an effect on the content of the OHCHR report is a first step. The UPR is a state-led process, and the OHCHR report serves as a background document, so to influence the outcome of the UPR one must ensure that key issues are included in the actual review and questions by other states. This is an opportunity to lobby other states concerning Indonesia's human rights record. Ultimately, it is imperative to develop the capacity to influence states.

ALRC and KontraS produced a strong report¹⁵⁵. Joint reports involving ALRC as a regional NGO plus a National level NGO seem to have most impact¹⁵⁶. The joint ALRC-KontraS report¹⁵⁷ was cited 26 times in the OHCHR summary report - the highest number of times yet for an ALRC report. Also in terms of qualitative assessment the report was successful: the majority of key issues in the ALRC/KontraS report were included in OHCHR's summary report.

All in all, the joint ALRC-KontraS UPR report is an excellent example of significant outcome that can be attributed to the international advocacy work of ALRC and partners.

154 KontraS: Komisi Untuk Orang Hilang Dan Korban Tindak Kekerasan, the Commission for the Disappeared and Victims of Violence.

¹⁵⁵http://lib.ohchr.org/HRBodies/UPR/Documents/session13/ID/JS2_UPR_IDN_S13_2012_JointSubmission2_E.pdf

¹⁵⁶ See footnote under "Expected Outcome 2" for analysis of qualitative outcome.

¹⁵⁷ The joint ALRC-KontraS' report is cited as Joint Submission 2 (JS2) in the OHCHR report.

7. Human Rights Education and Legal Reform in China

The evaluation included a field visit to China¹⁵⁸ with visits to partners in Guangzhou, Wuhan and Beijing, accompanied by China desk in charge Wong Kai Shing and Kit Chan. The field visit involved meetings with 10 (formal/informal) organisations, 40 partners, including lawyers, academics, NGO-leaders, human rights activists and representatives of marginalized communities. Two semi-structured surveys were conducted¹⁵⁹. The evaluation also involved meetings in Hong Kong.

This is an abbreviated version of the chapter on the China programme.

The longer version contains interviews with key partners and an analysis of these; an overview of activities in view of objectives and outcome, details on the 2 surveys, references and footnotes.

The ALRC China programme is organized into 2 components:

1. Human Rights Education and Legal Reform in China, to promote understanding and implementation of due process rights among judges / lawyers; and to build capacity of NGOs in China for the right of disadvantaged people.
2. Empowerment of Civil Society and lobby for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in China

The AHRC/ALRC approach to promote legal reform for human rights in China differs from AHRC/ALRC approaches in other Asian countries: the strategy in China has to be a long-term process with a non-confrontational approach¹⁶⁰. The urgency of a non-confrontational approach has become more apparent in recent years. This was communicated to the evaluator by virtually all ALRC partners. The partners mention that they are “invited to drink tea” with ‘security’ and that they have to be extremely cautious not only for themselves but also for their staff, their partners, their institutions, and for the long term viability of their Human Rights work.¹⁶¹

Programmes pursued in other countries¹⁶² are not applied in China, for example the Urgent Appeals programme is not used because of the risks involved¹⁶³.

At the start of the 2010-2012 programme period ALRC observed several trends considered to be favourable to long-term reforms for the development of the Rule of Law and human rights protection:

- Lawyers are engaging in legal reforms and legal aid for defending rights of disadvantaged groups (public interest lawyers, human rights lawyers),
- NGOs working with disadvantaged groups are playing an active role in advocating HR,
- Netizens actively use the space created, manage to circumvent blockades¹⁶⁴.

The context for Human Rights advocacy and promotion of the Rule of Law in China was seen as volatile. On one hand there are indications¹⁶⁵ of a vibrant ‘mass society’:

- A record of independent candidates for local elections,
- A stunning record of an estimated 180,000 mass incidents in 2010¹⁶⁶,

¹⁵⁸ AHRC/ALRC Evaluation Mission 2012 for Sida, Welmoed Koekebakker, Field visit to China, 21–27 June, 2012. See List of persons consulted, China; Annex.

¹⁵⁹Field visit 21-27 June. Evaluation methods included interviews, group discussions, semi-structured surveys, observations, study of documents.

¹⁶⁰ For China’s successful and multi-faceted strategies to counter human rights pressures pre-2000 see Wong Kai Shing: China’s strategy to counter international human rights pressures since 1989, Hong Kong 1999. <http://dspace.cityu.edu.hk/handle/2031/3999>

¹⁶¹ Ms. Kong Fanhua, 21 June 2012, Professor Lin, 22 June 2012, Ms. Xu Bin, 27 June 2012, Dongjen, 26 June 2012, Prof. Bai Guimei, 27 June 2012. See also Mo Shaoping: **China’s Lawyers Confront Systemic Dangers**. Speech presented at Caijing’s Forum on “China’s Lawyers at a Crossroads”, July 10, 2010.

¹⁶²See AHRC/ALRC Work Programme 2010-2012 p 74

¹⁶³ a related reason for not using UA is that UA is not feasible as internet is largely blocked.

¹⁶⁴ The number of internet users is estimated at 550 million in 2012

¹⁶⁵ AHRC/ALRC Work Report 2011 p 123-124

¹⁶⁶ There is a vast body of articles on the growing number of mass incidents from different perspectives and only few based on primary sources. Prof. Sun Liping from Tsinghua University, quoted in AHRC /ALRC Work Report 2011 p 124; Austin

- Individual human rights defenders continue to be vocal.

On the other hand it is apparent¹⁶⁷ that China's deepest anxiety is the threat potentially coming from its own people. China's longstanding government control seems tighter than before.

During the evaluation mission respondents¹⁶⁸ agreed that the space for maneuvering for Human Rights advocates has decreased in 2012 as compared to 5 years ago.¹⁶⁹

This conclusion is shared by most Human Rights reports on China¹⁷⁰ in spite of the Rule of Law and Human Rights instruments and language increasingly employed by the Chinese government¹⁷¹. This is how human rights advocates consulted during the evaluation see the area of tension for interventions trying to promote rule of law and protection of human rights in China.

1. Human Rights Education and Legal Reform

Project nr. 1 involves 4 sets of activities:

1. Consultations on due process issues for judges and lawyers¹⁷²
2. Internships and Legal Exchange in Hong Kong
3. Human Rights training for Civil Society Groups
4. Research, Publications and e-publications¹⁷³.

2. Empowerment of Civil Society and lobby for Economic, Social, Cultural Rights in China

The development of 'civic groups' and 'unauthorized civil organizations' in spite of tight control and strict suppression has been considered an "unstoppable force"¹⁷⁴ and a "powerful instrument through which Chinese people form an active and participatory citizenry"¹⁷⁵. In 2010 ALRC found that there is space to work with civil society groups supporting human rights of disadvantaged groups, so it started exploring options for conducting human rights workshops. Identifying the right partners was essential^{176, 177}.

Stange: Mass incidents in Central China and the PAP, in: The Monitor, Summer 2012, p 31- 43; Feng Shu: A National Conundrum, People's Daily Online, 4.2.2012.

¹⁶⁷ For example, in 2011 the budget for law and order for the first time in history exceeded the defense budget.

¹⁶⁸ Discussion with Mr. Wang, Beijing Impact Law Firm, 25 June 2012; Mr. Huang, He Hairen, 25 June 2012; Prof. Bai Guimei, Beijing Univ. Law School: 27 June 2012: "The situation is much worse than one year ago".

¹⁶⁹ This was also discussed in ALRC workshops: see discussions with ICECSR workshop participants reported in Work Report 2010 p 87. Prominent NGOs on workers and women were targeted. One group was charged of tax evasion. Foreign finance control makes it more difficult for NGOs to get funds from outside. The Women Legal Research and Services Centre had lost its official status after being delinked from the university law school. See also: "China: Chokehold on Civil Society Intensifies - Leading Women's Center Faces Uncertain Future, 2010. <http://www.hrw.org/news/2010/04/11/china-chokehold-civil-society-intensifies>.

¹⁷⁰ US State Department; China Human Rights Defenders; Human Rights Watch: China, 2011.<http://www.hrw.org/world-report-2012/world-report-2012-china>

Amnesty International: <http://www.amnesty.org/en/region/china/report-2011>

¹⁷¹ e.g. the Second National Human Rights Action Plan of China 2012-2015, launched on 11 June 2012. http://english.gov.cn/2012-06/11/content_2158183.htm; and the review of the Criminal Procedure Law in March 2012.

¹⁷² Totally 8 consultations were scheduled in the work programme.

¹⁷³ Research in cooperation with Wuhan University Law School and Beijing University Law School. By mid 2012 this had resulted in 2 publications: a book on empirical data concerning rights of criminal suspects in criminal investigation: Prof. Lin Lihong (ed): The Ideal and Reality of Procedural Justice. Empirical reports on Criminal Procedure. Wuhan, 2011; in 2012 a book will be published by Beijing University Law school with an analysis of problems of the criminal justice system and torture, see AHRC/ALRC Work Report 2011 p 132.

The workshops on implementation of ICESCR resulted in innovative research initiatives, including two researches on the implementation of ESC rights: A research on barrier-free environment for disabled persons, by Professor Wu Songyu, from Dalian Maritime University, completed in 2010 and a research on minimum wages. They were the products of the action plan of the first workshop on ICESCR and PIL. AHRC/ALRC Work Report 2010; ICESCR and PIL workshop Dec. 2008.

Researches supported by ALRC include a research on lead pollution on the health of children, and on the situation of left-behind children. Bingyan He, Jingyi Fan, Ni Liu, Huijuan Li, Yanjun Wang Joshua Williams, Kaishing Wong: Depression of 'left-behind children' in rural China. In: Psychiatry Research, 2012, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.psychres.2012.04.001>:

Other outcome: The cooperation resulted in a Textbook on ICESCR rights, an e-newsletter on the Rule of Law in Asia

¹⁷⁴ Lu Xiaobo: The Rise of Civil Society in China, in: Seeds of Change, China Rights Forum, no 3, 2003, p 16

¹⁷⁵ Joseph Y S Cheng, Kinglun Ngok, and Wenjia Zhuang: The survival and development space for China's labor NGOs – Informal politics and its uncertainty. In: Asian Survey, 2010, vol 50, number 6, p 1082-1106.

¹⁷⁶ For analysis of civil society groups, the spectrum of civil society activities and obstacles see AHRC/ALRC Work Report p 133. Much has changed since Lu Xiabo wrote his typology (Religious organisations, Environmental, Aids, Independent trade associations, cultural institutes, Peasants and workers, independent HR, internet). By 2012 ALRC partners are working with (also) Migrants/informal sector, Women, Youth, professional groups, Cultural/ethnic minority groups, LGBT, Disabled

Outcome: Dongjen appears a good partner for co-organizing Human Rights trainings for grassroots NGOs (see paragraph on Dongjen, below). Dongjen strengthened its role and self-confidence as a trainer. The workshops met ALRC's expectations. Participants' feedback was positive.

They demand further training including on NGO skills and strategies¹⁷⁸. Content-wise trainings tried to respond to the needs of target groups¹⁷⁹

Partnership ALRC - Dongjen

The key partner for ALRC's civil society project in China is Dongjen.
The value of partnership with ALRC is expressed by Li Dan as follows:

ALRC – Dongjen partnership: Added value - as expressed by Dongjen

- Inspiration, enlightenment, on rights based strategies – before, we did not know about Human Rights in a comprehensive way,
- Mentorship – on how to conduct workshops – systematic, localized, relevant,
- Capacity building – we are now seen as experts – helping us to go through a process of organizational transformation,
- ALRC broadened our vision (visit to Japan, UPR),
- ALRC helped us to create networks, exchange,
- Equal partnership – our strength is our knowledge/contacts with grassroots in China,
- Friendship.

Dongjen is, with inspiration from the ALRC partnership, passing through a dynamic change process which is characterized by Dongjen as follows (see cadre, below).

This change is to be qualified as a major transformation in a short period of time, where similar processes of change among NGOs often require a much longer period.

Dongjen – Organisational change - as characterized by Dongjen

Looking back at 4 years ago, and where you are now, how would you characterize the change?

1. In the past we focused on minorities, now on the majority (though still on minorities as well)
2. From 'helping' to rights perspective,
3. From being an NGO our-selves to supporting other NGOs

persons and other marginalized groups; and more groups (artists, evicted people, religious minority groups) are observed organizing themselves.

¹⁷⁷ The evaluator visited Dongjen on 26 June 2012. Dongjen Centre for Human Rights Education and Action (DCHREA) is a Beijing based non-governmental, non-profit organisation that aims to use HR education to promote the realisation of a truly Chinese HR culture and to protect the rights of marginalised groups, especially people affected by HIV/Aids. The partnership dates back to 2007 when Li Dan and Kai Shing met. The organization shifted its focus from HIV to Human Rights Education and changed its name in the process. Dongjen and ALRC co-organise Human Rights trainings for grassroots NGOs in Beijing & Yunnan province. First workshops were on ICESCR, then workshops on HIV and ICESCR were divided. Originally, ALRC was the main designer while DCHREA took care of logistics; there is a mutual understanding that DCHREA will develop into an independent trainer on HR education. DCHREA staff was trained in HK. The evaluator had a meeting with Li Dan, director of Dongjen. The discussion reflected on the dynamic nature of the ALRC-Dongjen partnership and the perspective of civil society in China. ALRC and DCHREA co-organised workshops and exchange visits.

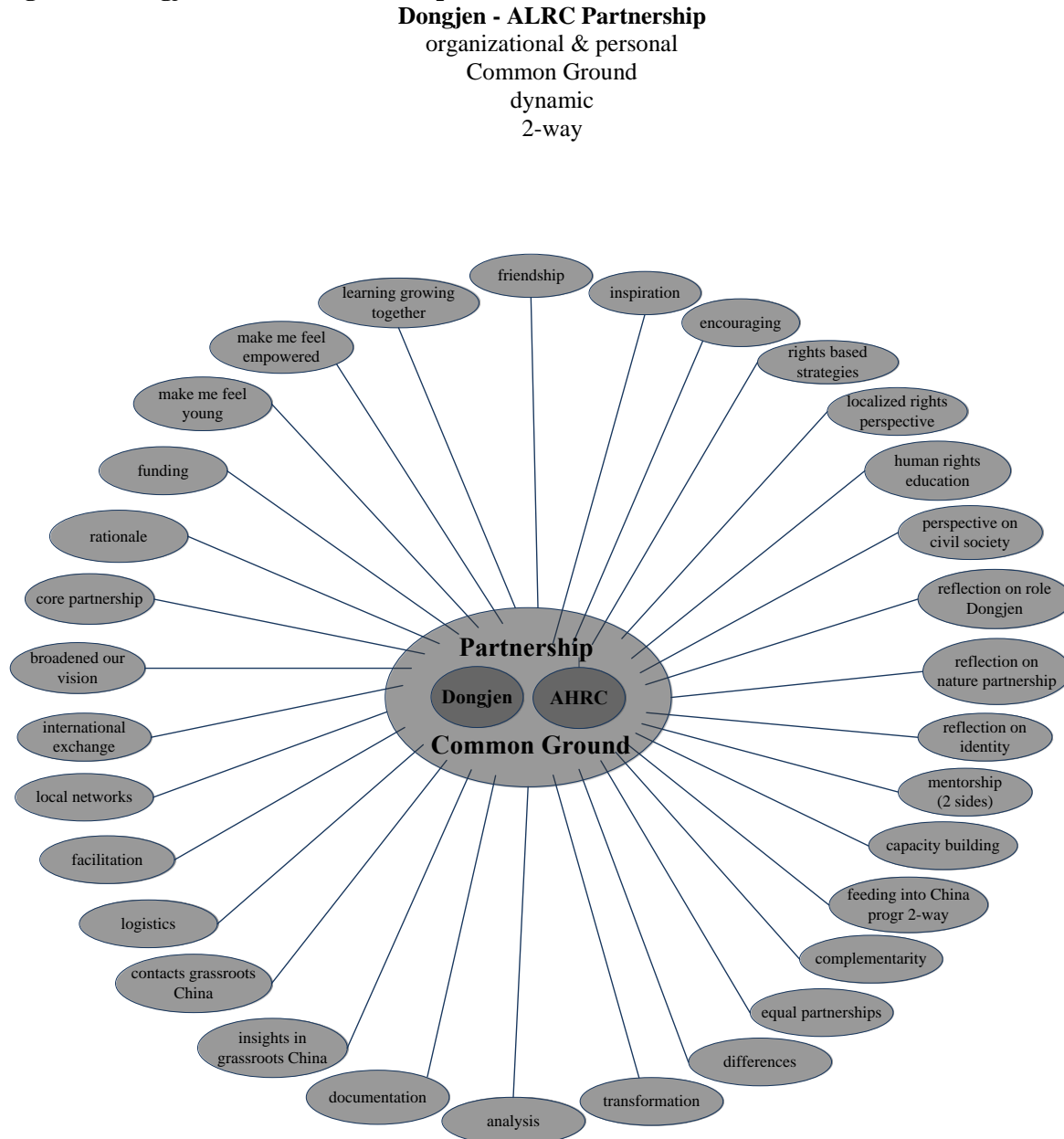
¹⁷⁸ Participants asked for more human rights training; "most other trainings for NGOs focus on management issues; this HR training is different; it helps clarify Human Rights concepts and strategies towards social change". Participants reported that they enjoyed the open approach of the workshops. See AHRC/ALRC Work report 2010 p 80. Participants confirmed the relevance of the workshops for their work. AHRC/ALRC Work Report 2011 p 136. They however found the international human rights mechanism "a bit farfetched in face of their daily reality". They requested that more domestic cases be used to illustrate international norms, and they request a separate training on NGO skills and strategies.

¹⁷⁹ Gender perspective, child rights, right of persons with disabilities were included (CEDAW, CRC, CRPD). AHRC/ALRC Work Report 2011 p 135. Other outcomes include: Introduction of a new area of Human Rights training for grass roots groups, focusing on applying the human rights framework in action strategies; A continuous 'flow of capacity building' for a number of civil society groups; Participants respond that they found the human rights framework trainings helpful for identifying ESC rights violations and developing rights based strategies in their respective fields. They found the action plans helpful for strategizing on ESC rights advocacy.

4. Dongjen sees itself now as a platform where people/groups can find/look for **common ground**. The platform provides a wide range of support, including resources/books, computers, meeting place, yellow pages, training, facilitation of training, information about international contacts, translation, etc. This is to be qualified as a major transformation in a short period of time. Similar processes of change among NGOs often require a much longer period.

Features of the partnership, as expressed by Dongjen and ALRC, are visualized in the figure, below.

Figure 4: Dongjen - ALRC Partnership



Indicators – NGO-development

Outcome and effectiveness of NGO work in the present context in China is contingent upon particular capacities.

The China programme has identified a number of relevant indicators that could be considered indicators for outcome¹⁸⁰.

¹⁸⁰ AHRC/ALRC Work Report 2011 p 134

This area can still be further developed¹⁸¹. There is a vast knowledge base on indicators for NGO development and civil society development that may be useful keeping in mind the specificity of the Chinese context. This area could be a subject for future NGO training for NGOs as indicators are preferably developed in a participatory way in view of ownership and planning capacity.

Perceptions of Partners

The evaluator had meetings with some 40 partners. The interviews were insightful and intense. Partners were motivated to convey their appreciation for ALRC. They made powerful and valuable statements – ‘jewels’. These statements constitute some absolutely convincing material in terms of outcome and attribution, but also valuable in themselves.

This evaluation analysed 15 interviews in detail. The outcome is presented below. For details see Annex.

Outcome of Assessment of Partners’ Perceptions on the Value of Partnership with ALRC

The field visits produced overwhelming evidence of the outcome and impact of the ALRC China programme, as perceived by the ALRC partners and reported to the evaluator.

The feedback from partners in China on ALRC is remarkably consistent. **We can conclude that these are solid, consistent features of the partnership of ALRC and its partners in China.**

To some extent they seem to reflect sustainable impact.

The evaluation asked all partners: How do you qualify the partnership between your organization and ALRC, what was the benefit for your organization? What was the benefit at a personal level? The answers are also quite consistent in *what precisely* they appreciate. The responses:

1. New perspective on Human Rights and Legal and Institutional Reform, in particular on how to use the ICESCR for Public Interest Litigation, and on criminal law procedure.
2. Working strategically
3. Training, Research, working together
4. Platform building
5. International exchange
6. Strengthening self-image as independent professional lawyer
7. Inspiration, Respect, autonomy, trust
8. Encouraging in difficult times
9. Capacity building for NGOs and training on Rights
10. Organizational development, democratic organisational principles, critical thinking, open discussion, innovative training methods.

Outcome

The ALRC China 2010-2012 programme has generated major outcome in the following areas:

1. A major outcome is the development of a **platform** for legal aid NGOs, lawyers, legal scholars and civil society groups for the promotion of ESC rights by public interest litigation. The platform was one of the long-term hoped-for outcomes of the project.¹⁸²

Indicators:

- a. Regular meetings of a ‘core group’
- b. With an articulated shared vision and objectives
- c. Action plans with designed responsibilities
- d. Trainings and exchange
- e. Exchange, cooperation on Human Rights action beyond planned meetings.
- f. Mutual support and advise on Public Interest Litigation cases and research

¹⁸¹ Development indicators and possibly empowerment indicators may be developed including indicators on individual, group and collective empowerment. NGO capacity indicators may include indicators on diversity, decision making, integrating principles and practices, organizational culture.

¹⁸² Work report 2011 p 132

- g. Creation of QQ groups
- 2. Another outcome is an increased capacity of local partners to **apply Human Rights standards** in analyzing social problems and advocating policy reform and social change for the rights of disadvantaged groups.

Indicators:

- a. Participants use what they learned in conducting studies on ESC rights,
- b. Local partners organize their own training activities on ESC rights,
- c. A book on ICESCR, written by Chinese scholars, under ALRC coordination, is published and used in trainings,
- d. Local partners engage in promoting ESC rights (workers, peasants, disable, children).
- 3. Solid **Partnerships** between ALRC and partners (lawyers, legal scholars, civil society groups). The tremendous appreciation partners have for ALRC is major outcome. This is documented in the paragraph on “perceptions of partners”, see above

Indicators

- a. Long time cooperative relationship
- b. Involving an gamut of effective activities
- c. Capacity to solve conflicts
- d. Based on deep mutual respect and friendship
- e. Diversity

This outcome is supported by respondents in *all* meetings during the field visits in China – see summary of partners’ perceptions.

- 4. A multi-disciplinary **research framework and methodology** in support of social/legal action strategies for implementation of ESC rights and promotion of Rule of Law in China is being articulated and shared, and social research undertaken on sensitive issues.

Indicators

- a. A broadening circle of committed researchers and HR activists...
- b. ... who are conducting action oriented research related to ESCR implementation
- c. Research activities supported by a multi-disciplinary platform of lawyers, academics, NGOs¹⁸³

- 5. Increased understanding of **due process rights** and torture, and of the role of lawyers in ensuring fair trial and protection of human rights,

Indicators

- a. Publication of research reports in Chinese journals and books on torture and due process rights¹⁸⁴,
- b. Criminal lawyers used what they learned in their advocacy for fair trial
- c. Growth of the circulation of the ALRC newsletter on the Rule of Law.

- 6. Increased self-understanding of lawyers and legal professionals as independent professionals.

Indicators

- a. As evident from meetings with lawyers
- b. And attributed by them to the partnership with ALRC
- c. Legal professionals involved in Public Interest Litigation with NGOs *contra* the government
- d. Creation of platform of independent legal professionals
- e. Reception of the consultations, feedback

- 7. Increased **empowerment of the NGOs** and civil groups that have participated in the ALRC activities.

- a. Civil groups are articulate and specific in demanding trainings, advise

¹⁸³Wong Kai Shing: “This is unexpected outcome”.

¹⁸⁴in particular the publications on the results of two researches on torture and due process rights provide empirical data of torture victims and records of the voices of victims.

- b. Growing capacity to conduct trainings on their own
 - c. Demand for more trainings
 - d. Growing capacity to systematically plan, strategize, implement, monitor
 - e. Increasing integration of a rights perspective in the organization.
 - f. Enlightened perspective on group emancipation in the context of the development of civil society.
8. **Personal empowerment** and growth of human rights activists and human rights lawyers and academicians who have participated in ALRC activities.
- a. Self confidence
 - b. Articulation of identity
 - c. Leadership capacities
 - d. Gender and diversity awareness
 - e. Mutual support

There is no doubt that the above examples of outcome can all to a large extent be attributed to the ALRC and its partners in China.

Most Significant Outcome

The development of a platform among legal scholars, lawyers and NGO activists for the promotion of ESC rights by public interest litigation and advocacy.

The ALRC China project started in 2000, aiming at developing the capacity of legal scholars, lawyers and civil society groups in the promotion of the rule of law and human rights. ALRC first developed links with scholars, lawyers and non-governmental legal aid groups through legal exchange programmes and consultations. With the ratification of the ICESCR by the Chinese government in 2001 ALRC used this opportunity to promote the discussion on ESC rights and support research on ESC rights, such as housing rights, social security, and worker's rights.

Increased capacity to apply human rights standards in problem analysis and advocacy for legal and political reform is a significant outcome of the China project.

This group of legal scholars, lawyers and non-governmental legal aid groups who had taken part in the ALRC activities were actively involved in the development of public interest litigation to promote reforms in law and policies. ALRC through training workshops advocated to integrate the promotion of ESC in public interest litigation. **The growing number of public interest litigation promoting ESC rights in China is a significant outcome that can to some extent be attributed to the ALRC China project.**

In 2008, some of the legal scholars suggested the ALRC to hold regular meetings among scholars, lawyers and HR activists to cooperate on the promotion of ESC rights through public interest litigation. This resulted in an active platform for cooperation on ESC rights. The platform has clear goals (including working on legal and institutional protection of ESC rights, case development and ESC reporting mechanism) and works with concrete action plans for participants (for example on promoting a barrier-free environment for disabled persons and on minimum wage standards).

Participants report that they find the platform useful for strengthening mutual understanding and support among the main actors of public interest litigation while also learning from each other from concrete cases. They report that the platform has greatly stimulated them to reflect on the problems of present system in protecting human rights and develop new ideas to advocate for changes. Participants are now actively cooperating to implement the plans of action. They are using the network to promote human rights of disadvantaged groups through public interest litigation and advocacy for legal and institutional reforms. They conduct innovative studies on the rights of disadvantaged people.

The platform¹⁸⁵ of legal scholars, lawyers and NGO activists for promotion of ESC rights by public interest litigation and advocacy is a major outcome. It can definitely be attributed to the 2010-2012 ALRC China project – to ALRC and its partners in China.

Reflections on Outcome

12. The political context for the project period 2010-2012 is volatile. All partners (civil society partners, lawyers, academics) report that the space for maneuvering for Human Rights advocates has decreased rather than increased in 2012 as compared to 5 years ago. Political volatility is a major risk factor that has affected planned achievements¹⁸⁶ and project outcome and expectedly will remain to do so in the coming years.
13. The context is not conducive for lawyers to ‘adopt Human Rights principles promoting legal reforms in China’ (programme indicator). In spite of this, there is evidence that it happens¹⁸⁷.
14. All partners are experts in maneuvering, all are **operating cautiously at the limit of legal tolerance** while taking full responsibility for their partners and their networks. “Big road, small path”¹⁸⁸. The partner network does not directly and openly include activists pursuing strategies and issues that push beyond the limits of legal tolerance. Some of the work of partners is pushing the boundaries of legality, some of their other work is within the boundaries of acceptance, and more often it is a combination.¹⁸⁹
15. The China project is based on a robust **context analysis** resultant from a multidisciplinary dialogue involving some of China’s prominent scholars, legal professionals and activists in the field of legal reform and human rights.
16. ALRC has managed to identify and build **solid partnership** relations with a core group of prominent legal professional, scholars, students and NGOs engaged in Human Rights (without saying so). What they share is a common understanding and the need for a long term approach. Some of them are taking the lead in their respective fields¹⁹⁰. ALRC has a Fingerspitzengefühl for identifying partners, potential Human Rights advocates and change agents.
17. The **personnel** aspect of the project (2 qualified committed staff, staff turnover zero) is a strength and a vulnerability: strength in the sense of capacity, trust, sustainability; vulnerability in the sense that staff capacity is limited in view of the huge area, the pioneer aspect of the project, diversity and additional responsibilities.
18. Strictly spoken it is difficult to **assess “Outcome”** for the project period 2010-2012 as there is no baseline and there is a thin line between the achievements reported for the previous project period and the outcome indicators of the present project period. Establishing outcome indicators for any project with a long-term approach and inherently ‘intangible’ informal and experimental elements in a non-Rule-of-Law context is a challenge. The PME exercise is a step forward and more detailed indicators may help making assumptions explicit.¹⁹¹. For the next project period it may be helpful to be a bit more specific in terms of a baseline. Reports could be more accessible¹⁹².

¹⁸⁵ Most relevant area of outcome as presented by the ALRC China desk. See Outcome assessment on China Project of the ALRC, unpublished document, June 2012

¹⁸⁶ For example, the cancellation of the Shanghai workshop, 2011.

¹⁸⁷ Participants of the meeting at Beijing Impact Law Firm, 25 June 2012: “It is not possible to affirm that nowadays more lawyers are working on Human Rights than before. This is due to the fact that the overall environment is more difficult than before. As a consequence many lawyers withdraw. But we can not openly say so”.

¹⁸⁸ Wang Zhenyu, 25 June 2012, Professor Bai Guimei, Beijing University, 26 June 2012.

¹⁸⁹ Professor Lin Lihong: “The University has asked me to withdraw my PIL case on confiscation of books” ... “I was nominated as a candidate for the District’s People’s Congress and I was elected. Yes,... they recognise the role of the Centre in resolving social conflict”. “In some areas we get recognition: legal aid, yes. But with our PIL the authorities are not happy... I cannot openly write the word ‘Human Rights’ ...but I can publish my research on torture...”

Professor Bai Guimei, Beijing University, mentioned several examples where she was advised to refrain from activities. “

¹⁹⁰ Zheng Xiangbin, lawyer on environmental issues, involved in the Public Interest Litigation platform. Meeting on 22 June 2012, Wuhan. See “Talks begin in Landmark case. Lawsuit could mark first time NGOs file public litigation on environment”. China Daily, 24 May 2012. Evaluation meeting with Zheng Xingbin on 22 June 2012

¹⁹¹ See AHRC/ALRC Work Programme 2010-2012 p 55

¹⁹² For example, using an activity framework with timeframe and a table of contents with subheadings.

19. Two surveys were undertaken during the field visit. Remarkably, the outcome of the surveys is quite comparable to evaluation surveys undertaken in Pakistan and The Philippines in that respondents are appreciative of the partnership with ALRC/AHRC and also in *what precisely* they perceive as beneficial. This observation pertains to the organizational as well as the personal level.
20. Interviews and meetings provided a similar picture: without exception, partners express that they greatly appreciate the ALRC. Often, the depth of the appreciation and the emotions involved were not in the first place expressed in the wordings but more in body language. There is no doubt that the cooperation with ALRC means a lot to human rights protagonists in China.

Recommendations

1. The ALRC China programme obviously meets an expressed need. Partners demand that ALRC continue the China Programme to assist them in their efforts to contribute human rights in China. In view of the human rights situation and on-going transformations in China the need for human rights and institutional reform strategies is expected to increase. ALRC, with help of its partners, should continue the Programme on Human Rights Education and Legal Reform and NGO Capacity Building in China, with full support from its international partners.
2. This report analyses *what precisely* the partners perceive as beneficial. ALRC may reflect on how to continue to give dynamic inputs in the areas regarded as particularly useful:
 - New perspective on Human Rights
 - Working strategically
 - Training, Research
 - Inspiration and values
 - Platform building
 - International exchange
 - Strengthening self-image as independent professional lawyers
 - Respect, autonomy
 - Encouragement in difficult times
 - Capacity building for NGOs and training on Rights
 - Democratic organisational development, critical thinking, innovative training methods.
3. The China project with its partners in China has developed a particular style, methodology and approach which is carefully chosen and regarded by partners as the only viable way for a long term approach towards human rights and institutional reform in China.
4. The China project has a Fingerspitzengefuehl for identifying key change agents. Partners selected in 2006 are today the main players in the Public Interest Litigation field. Partners in the Platform are naturally central to ALRC's activities. In view of the changing context there is a need for ALRC and partners to continue identifying new potential change agents to be included in the network(s), and expand geographically as well as in terms of targets groups.
5. Consider involving (more) partners from sensitive locations/areas, as they may be the 'ears and eyes' of human rights violations, and capacity building in those areas is particularly relevant.
6. It may be recommended to make the underlying assumptions and analytical framework in the China project explicit: under what conditions is capacity building expected to contribute to collective capacity for social change. This subject may be included in training curriculums (with examples from other Asian countries e.g. including Central Asia).
7. NGO-Partners have expressed interest in learning innovative Human Rights training methods. The project may consider incorporating innovative training methods in trainings and/or address this in a special training.
8. NGO-Partners will remain to require different levels of training. ALRC may consider sending experienced partners to Training of Trainers and/or organise ToT, to diversify training inputs in terms of methods and thematic expertise.
9. Dongjen expressed interest in learning about Culture & Arts in relation to Human Rights in other countries and the possibilities of cultural/artistic expression for Human Rights advocacy. The project may consider integrating this in the future project phase.

10. The e-newsletters on human rights and Rule of Law may be one of the areas of ‘comparative advantage’ of ALRC, in particular in the changing context in China. ALRC may reflect on how to maximize its outcome and impact in this area.
11. In view of changing partner capacities (NGOs, lawyers, platforms) and political dynamics in China, ALRC and partners may redefine their roles in the next project period.
12. Outcome indicators may be refined in cooperation with Chinese partners. Reports could be more ‘accessible’.
13. More synergies between the two projects may benefit the programme.
14. What are the best ways to strengthen a democratic participatory diversity-sensitive work style and culture in the platforms? Is it commendable to ‘informally formalize’ the platform?

4. Relevance and Outcome

1. Relevance and effectiveness

As has been demonstrated in the previous chapters, the AHRC/ALRC interventions have been highly relevant and effective in view of their objectives.

2. Overall assessment of Outcome

The PME Manual defines six areas of expected outcome. Are these outcomes actually occurring? What indicators have been identified to assess whether these outcomes are actually happening? This has been discussed with staff and partners, in Hong Kong and during field visits; and a survey was undertaken among staff members asking them to list indicators that they see for outcome. Based on this, and on observations during the three field visits, this evaluation supports the conclusion that the overall outcome is to a large extent happening. Indicators for outcome do occur, but definitely not all of them everywhere. To qualify this conclusion, it is essential to refer to the evaluation methodology (chapter 3): “For Outcome Evaluations of Human Rights programmes a methodological approach to address the attribution factor is a *sine qua non*-condition. This is particularly urgent in the context of the non-Rule-of-Law countries where the AHRC/ALRC programmes are operating”.

For each of the expected outcomes in the 6 key areas the answer can be overall affirmative in the sense that ‘several indicators occur’. There seems to be a consensus, though, that whatever happens, it is not enough. Careful answers seem to come most close to the reality.

1. Victims of human rights violations have received more local and international support for seeking redress.
2. Generation of in-depth knowledge and documentation of cases regarding the institutional problems relating to human rights violations in Asian countries, disseminated widely to local and global audiences.
3. The issues of the rule of law and criminal justice system become key topics of public discourse and debate concerning the improvement of human rights in Asian countries where AHRC works.
4. National human rights movements become more involved in working towards reform of justice institutions.
5. Increase of attention and support of international human rights networks and UN human rights mechanisms on human rights issues and institutional reforms in Asian countries.
6. Asian governments of countries where we work become more responsive to cases and human rights issues raised by AHRC. There is evidence that this is actually happening but this is apparently not an area where outcome is easily identifiable.

The previous chapters have systematically assessed the outcome in the key programmes of the AHRC/ALRC. The overall conclusion of the evaluation of the 2010-2012 programme is:

Overall conclusion of the evaluation of the 2010-2012 programme of AHRC/ALRC supported by Sida:

In the period 2010-2012 there is evidence of *significant outcome* in the key programme areas where AHRC/ALRC worked: Urgent Appeals, Torture Prevention and Legal and Institutional Reform, Capacity Building towards Human Rights Leadership, Communication and IT, Right to Food, International Human Rights Advocacy and the China Programme.

This conclusion, as has been demonstrated, is substantiated through a variety of indicators of outcome. It is also confirmed through a systematic analysis of *perceptions* of the partners of AHRC/ALRC – victims and human rights defenders – in other words of *those who matter most*.

This evaluation has endeavored to, where possible and meaningful, assess *attribution*. The evaluation concludes that there is ample evidence that the outcomes can, indeed, to a considerable extent be *attributed* to the interventions of AHRC/ALRC and their partners – human rights protagonists in Asia.

The six key programmes are, as has been evidenced in the previous chapters, interrelated. Country projects are also interrelated in the sense that all country projects apply the full range of programmes – like warp and weft. So, logically, it makes sense to assess overall outcome of the 6 key programmes in their interconnectedness, that is, in the context of a country programme. The evaluation decided to undertake that exercise for one country: Pakistan. Results of this assessment are provided in the chapter on Pakistan.

The conclusion on the overall outcome assessment of the key 6 programmes is:

Summarizing: AHRC’s outcome on Pakistan

- There is clear outcome
- As evidenced by different indicators, quantitative and qualitative
- Including strong victim/partner perspective indicators
- There is evidence that this outcome is to be partly attributed to AHRC and partners
- There is likeliness of impact.

Can the same conclusion be drawn for all countries? It is certainly evident for Pakistan, and positive dynamics were observed in The Philippines. Not all areas of outcome are equally strong, and the picture is changing. At this moment it is too early to undertake an assessment of overall outcome for all 12 Asian countries where AHRC/ALRC work. That would be a gratuitous exercise that is insufficiently supported by critical analysis and empirical data. With the PME framework AHRC has a powerful tool to, in the next years, progressively assess this question in detail.

5. Recommendations

PME and Indicators

- Under the Sida Agreement 2010-2012 a budget was earmarked for strengthening Results Based Management. AHRC has made a leap forward in terms of developing expected outcome and indicators. One of the results is the PME Manual.
- The PME Manual has already been highly useful for monitoring and outcome assessment. It is noted that not all staff are proficient with the PME framework (that is perhaps also not needed).
- Indicators in the PME Manual are already significant and relevant, but there is scope for improvement – logically because the process is only new. It is recommended to further develop indicators, including a mix of quantitative and qualitative indicators, and a mix of SMART and SPICED indicators.
- It is also recommended to include indicators with a beneficiary/partners/victims/rights holders perspective.
- Currently AHRC currently maintains several matrixes. They are incongruent and follow a different logic. It is recommended to maintain one consistent results matrix to organize and monitor the work.

Gender perspective

- The evaluation had a discussion on gender. In policy documents and in the Work Programme 2010-2012 AHRC expresses a clear commitment to “integrating gender into all its programs”.¹⁹³ Some country desks are particularly dedicated to gender equality. Then why is AHRC an almost exclusively male organization (core staff)? Why do some partners, donors, some internal staff perceive AHRC as male-biased?
- Gender is not something that can be ‘added’ to an organizational culture. It requires transformations and awareness of masculinities and femininities. Integrating a gender perspective in the organization includes transformations in terms of analytical frameworks, gender division of labour and decision making, gendered aspects of organizational culture, criteria for partnership. A gendered analysis of violence may highlight different factors and may arrive at different strategic conclusions. It is reflected in all aspects of the organization and its activities. Men and women are equally needed in gender strategies and they may equally (but differently) benefit.
- The major conditions for a gender perspective in AHRC are met: the will of the staff, and express commitment from AHRC management. A policy paper on gender is in the making. Recommendation: To invite external gender expertise in feeding a change process; to make a strategic plan, and to look for feminist partnerships. Recommendation to the donor: to support this process.

Geographical priorities

- All AHRC/ALRC interventions are relevant. Some geographical areas require additional efforts in view of the gravity of human rights violations, isolation of the area, lack of information channels, risks of human rights defenders. Regions particularly vulnerable and insufficiently covered by the international human rights community are Balochistan and Papua. Mindanao still requires unabated attention. A particularly difficult area, probably beyond the scope of ALRC at the moment, but definitely in need of the kind of interventions AHRC/ALRC can do, is Tibet. Expertise on Central Asia may be useful for a comparative perspective. For focused interventions in some of these areas special funding may be sought.

Country desk priorities

- The evaluation supports the present priorities of AHRC/ALRC country desks. AHRC/ALRC through Folkschool, internship programme, trainings creates an ongoing flow of capacity building resulting in local human rights capacity, a web of human rights defenders ready to act, and sustainable partnerships for the regional organization. Local Urgent Appeal desks support the

¹⁹³AHRC/ALRC: Work Programme, 2010-2012, p. 140-143

three-tier advocacy model. AHRC may consider endorsing this approach with more efforts and try to ‘informally institutionalize’ the model, possibly including targeted funding, giving it a name (informal identification - creating an “Asian Human Rights Defender identity card?”).

- In view of the strength of the partners network in mobilizing local human rights defenders and the level of conflict in the country the Pakistan desk requires additional capacity, in Hong Kong as well as in-country. This is also an expressed need of the partners in Pakistan.
- The India desk may reflect on geographical, thematic and strategic focus, also in terms of limited human resource capacity. How to create momentum, how to maximize impact, what is the particular niche (comparative advantage) of AHRC vis-à-vis human rights capacities in India.

Funding strategies

- Targeted funding may be sought, in particular for ‘urgent’ areas, and for gender specific projects. The evaluator has given some suggestions of potential funders in bilateral discussions and in writing.
- AHRC and partners may explore new fund raising strategies in particular crowd funding. AHRC may assist in linking crowd funders to partners.
- For funding strategies a clear gender perspective and gendered profile is a must, as well as integration of a gender perspective at all levels of the organization and all activities as well as in visibility.

Publications

- The programme has impressive outcome in terms of publications. Information may be too ‘AHRC/ALRC centered’. There is scope for more impact. Recommendation: Create an express strategy to popularize information. Diversify distribution channels. Publish articles in popular magazines (in addition to the new magazine on torture). Perhaps attract interns or special staff specifically tasked to popularize existing information.
- Some publications and reports (including annual yearbook) require more rigorous editing and they may be made more accessible (e.g. search functions).

Narratives

- Narratives are one of AHRC’s strong products. Narratives are ‘where the human rights intervention starts and ends’. AHRC may explore making narratives more powerful by strengthening narrative techniques including in writing, telling, multimedia and through partnerships with professionals and NGOs with expertise in multimedia, culture and arts. Partnership with UNJUST has been highly successful¹⁹⁴.

Team building

- To organize a teambuilding exercise covering 3 related objectives: individual growth, strengthening the team, and ‘space’ for transformation. See Annex.

Recommendations on Pakistan

Recommendations from participants and surveys supported by the evaluator:

- Try to expand grassroots partnerships
- Paralegal trainings in cooperation with CBOs – at grassroots level
- More support and protection for victims – as asked in meetings
- Address Capacity Building needs of our partner organisations (recommended by Bushra Khaliq)
- Training on Rule of Law - requested by partners
- Specific training for the anti-torture campaign, specially on torture and torture prevention, including on trauma-counseling – requested by victims / partners

Recommendations by Munir Malik:

- Launch the annual report by local partners in big cities inviting prominent persons,
- Create a country representative of AHRC in Pakistan, who is on the board of AHRC
- Visibility of credible persons within/backing AHRC, make the list of people backing AHRC visible at your website and elsewhere,
- Create partnerships with law offices like Rasheed Razvi Sahab, Munir Malik and create a MoU, raising critical issues,
- Pro-active action including legal assistance,

¹⁹⁴ <http://www.humanrights.asia/news/press-releases/AHRC-PRL-009-2011/>

- Need for the creation of a coalition of international solidarity.

List of Figures

1: Urgent Appeals: Central to AHRC

2: Blue Button for Urgent Appeals in 'Results Chain'

3: Capacity Building in AHRC/ALRC

4: The Flow of Capacity Building – Added Value of a Regional Organisation

5: ALRC Partnership – with key NGO partner Dongjen - China

Annexes

1. Terms of Reference

See separate file

Terms of Reference

Evaluation of Asian Human Rights Commission and Asian Legal Resource Centre

1. Background

Overview of the purposes and work of AHRC/ALRC

The Asian Human Rights Commission and the Asian Legal Resource Centre (AHRC/ALRC) are regional non-governmental organizations committed to the protection and promotion of human rights in terms of the universal norms and standards as set out by UN conventions in the context of Asia where the institutional development for promotion of rights is still in backward stage and where state accountability is very much challenged by such backwardness. The organizations provide supports to local human rights groups in different countries, engage in creating better protection mechanisms for victims of human rights abuses and human rights activists, and help with lobbying and monitoring on human rights issues locally and internationally. Both organisations lay great emphasis on over coming problems relating to rule of law as a central concern for protection and promotion of human rights. Both organizations lay emphasis on the realization of Article 2 of the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the covenant on Economic, Social and Political Rights.

The AHRC/ALRC has been dealing with some of the most serious human rights violations in Asian countries, including torture, enforced disappearances, extrajudicial killing, arbitrary detention, freedom of expression, caste-based discrimination, hunger, and starvation deaths. To address these issues and protect human rights, the AHRC and ALRC are deeply aware of the importance to develop an in-depth and genuine understanding of the local context in Asian countries regarding the systemic problems that propagate serious violations of human rights and the key obstacles in resolving these problems. The approach that the AHRC/ALRC taken is to document cases of human rights violations and provide supports to victims, mostly from the grassroots and disadvantaged groups, in seeking redress. By directly working on cases of violations and supporting victims with local human rights activists and groups, the AHRC/ALRC have got to know in details and develop analysis on how these violations happened and the systemic problems leading to the failure to protect human rights and provide redress to victims in Asian countries. The advocacy work of the AHRC/ALRC has been greatly enhanced by the use of modern communication technology which helps to disseminate the urgent appeals and related statements and reports speedily to wide local and international audiences and networks. It also provides effective channels to arouse concern and interventions for the victims of human rights violations.

Over the years, the AHRC/ALRC has found that the absence of the rule of law is the key factor contributing to the continuous human rights violations and the lack of protection and redress for victims. Without the rule of law, the executive has encroached on the powers of the legislature and the judiciary, denying people from justice and protection of their human rights. In particular, the dysfunction of the criminal justice system has perpetuated impunity of perpetrators of violations. A main obstacle is the dysfunction of policing systems in Asian countries to protect rights. Instead, the police are major perpetrators of serious human rights violations. Judicial delay, lack of witness protection, the absence of competency in prosecution and the judiciary, and corruption also hinders the administration of justice. Therefore, preventing human rights violations is indelibly linked to the establishment of rule of law. The judiciary, prosecution and police systems of a country must all be functioning effectively, to enable the monitoring and correction of human rights abuses.

2. Time Schedule Evaluation Mission

Date	Activities
18 May	Departure Amsterdam
19 May	Arr Hong Kong
20 May	AHRC – Board Meeting
21 May (Mon)	Meeting with the management and overall introduction of AHRC and ALRC
22 May (Tue)	Urgent Appeals Programme
23 May (Wed)	Prevention of torture and institutional reforms
24 May (Thu)	Morning: Human rights school and internship Afternoon: Communications and IT
25 May (Fri)	Morning: Country desk: Sri Lanka Afternoon: AED programme and UN advocacy
26-27 May	Study documents
28 May (Mon)	Morning:Country desk: The Philippines Afternoon/evening:Country desk: Pakistan
29 May (Tue)	Country desk: India/Right to food programme; Fly to Manila in the evening
30 May (Wed)	Country visit to the Philippines
31 May (Thu)	Country visit to the Philippines
1 June (Fri)	Country visit to the Philippines
2 June (Sat)	Travel to Hong Kong
3 June	Study documents
4 June (Mon)	Morning: Country desk: Bangladesh, Fly to Karachi in the evening
5 June (Tue)	Country visit to Pakistan
6 June (Wed)	Country visit to Pakistan
7 June (Thu)	Country visit to Pakistan
8 June (Fri)	Country visit to Pakistan; Fly back to Hong Kong in the evening
9 June (Sat)	Afternoon arr Hong Kong
10 June (Sun)	Study documents
11 June (Mon)	Skype with other AHRC's partners
12 June (Tue)	Afternoon:Country desk: Thailand
13 June (Wed)	Morning:Country desk: Nepal Morning:Country desk: Indonesia
14 June (Thu)	Morning:Country desk: Burma Afternoon: Country desk: China
15 June (Fri)	Right to food programme (Bijo and Skype with Ju) Meetings withsome of the participants of the Rule of Law meeting
16-17 June	Study documents
18 June (Mon)	Meeting with the management (Regional Human Rights Folk School on 18-29 June in the office)
19 June (Tue)	Evaluation Workshop Day 1
20 June (Wed)	Evaluation Workshop Day 1
21 June (Thu)	Train to Guangzhou and Wuhan
22 June (Fri)	Country visit to China (Wuhan)
23 June (Sat)	Wuhan - see separate schedule
24 June (Sun)	Fly to Beijing in the evening
25 June	Country visit to China (Beijing)
26 June	Country visit to China (Beijing)
27 June	Country visit to China; Fly back to Hong Kong
28 June	Thursday – documents, Dep. to The Netherlands

3. List of Persons consulted during the mission, time schedule

AHRC / ALRC

Board of AHRC

Cheung Yiu-Leung, Barrister-at-Law, Hong Kong

Rene Sarmiento, Commissioner, Commission on Elections, Manila, Philippines

Kishali Pinto-Jayawardena

AHRC/ALRC Staff	
Wong Kai Shing <wongkaishing@ahrc.asia>	Executive Director
Basil Fernando <basil.fernando@ahrc.asia>	Director for Policy and Programme Development
"Bijo Francis" <bijo.francis@ahrc.asia>	Programme Officer, AHRC management
"Baseer Naweed" <baseer.naweed@ahrc.asia>	Senior Researcher-South Asia
"Kit Chan" <kit.chan@ahrc.asia>	Programme Officer
"Norman H. Voss" <norman.voss@ahrc.asia>	Communication Coordinator
"Danilo Reyes" <danilo.reyes@ahrc.asia>	Programme Officer
"Moon Jeong Ho" <moonjeongho@ahrc.asia>	Programme Officer
"John Sloan" <john.sloan@ahrc.asia>	Editorial Assistant
"Nick Cheesman" <nick.cheesman@ahrc.asia>	Projects Officer
"Md. Ashrafuzzaman Zaman" <md.ashrafuzzam	Programme Officer
"Rasika Sanjeewa Weerawickrama" <sanjeewa.v	Advisor on Legal Matter
"Juliette Thibaud" <juliette.thibaud@ahrc.asia>	Programme Assistant
"Nilantha Ilangamuwa" <nilantha.ilangamuwa@	Communication Officer for Sri Lanka
"Clifford Perera" <clifford.perera@ahrc.asia>	Consultant on Forensic Issues and Human Rights
"Rajat Mitra" <rajat.mitra@ahrc.asia>,	Senior Consultant on Mental Health
"Louise Sun" <louise.sun@ahrc.asia>	Admin. Officer
"Linda Lai" <linda.lai@ahrc.asia>	Office Assistant
"Amy Mak" <amy.mak@ahrc.asia>	Admin. & Account Clerk
"Debby Luk" <debby.luk@ahrc.asia>	Administrative Assistant
"Purdey Mak" <purdey.mak@ahrc.asia>,	System Administrator

AHRC/ALRC Interns: Anna, Sian, William, Mirza, and others

Partners consulted in AHRC / ALRC Hong Kong

Rule of Law meeting participants

Folkschool participants

Other partners mentioned in the report: India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh, Thailand, Burma, Korea, China, Indonesia, Philippines.

The Philippines

List of people met Philippines **Welmoed Koekebakker** **Field visit organized by Danilo Reyes** in charge, Philippines country desk, AHRC

May 30 Manila

- Diana Mariano, assistant to AHRC
- Task Force Detainees of the Philippines (TFDP)
- Rita Melecia, Task Force Detainees of the Philippines, introduced UA in the TFDP work, worked with AHRC desk officer Danilo Reyes in Mindanano, Davao, on several torture cases - see background info
- Jerbert Briola, Medical Action Group (MAG) and former Folkschool participant
- Rommel Yamzon, former staff of TFDP in Luzon, now joined recently established organization Human Rights Defenders (HRD- Filipinas), documented and worked on torture cases and extrajudicial killings and forensic evidence. Folkschool participant, see background info
- (Max de Mesa- PAHRA – Philippine Alliance of Human Rights Advocates, board member of TFDP, visited Mindanao worked with AHRC desk officer on torture cases. visit planned but cancelled)
- Florence Manegdeg, Kasanayaphi. Former participant of Folk School. Has a HRD ID card from Frontline Defenders Dublin (Human Rights Defenders). Worked of the case of her husband Jose Pepe Manegdeg, planning to organize meeting with AHRC; dom-an (florence) macagne –manegdeg, +639995145439, kasiyana peace and healing initiatives, 2169 sagada, mountain province, florence macagne <florence.macagne@gmail.com>
- Loreine de la Cruz, board member, Balay
- Liza Rowena Perdon, co-producer of the figures for the evaluation report

May 31, Manila

CTUHR, NFSW and KMU

- Survey made with questionnaire
- Daisy Arago, CTUHR, see book by CTUHR, and Women WISE 3
- Ronal Ian Evidente, Visayas, Negros, labour activist falsely charged, Folkschool on Right to Food Negros, KMU, NFSW
- Florence Manegdeg, Kasanayaphi. Former participant of Folk School. See previous day. husband Jose Pepe Manegdeg, planning to organize meeting with AHRC.

dep. for Davao

June 1, Davao and General Santos

- “Cocoy” Temogen Tulawie, Muslim leader from Sulu, visit in Maa City Jail, with Crystal Flores and Danilo. Video made
- Crystal Flores, TFDP office, and other TFDP staff
- Talib Japalali, brother of Bakar Tapalali, killed with his wife Carmen, fighting for justice since 8 years with help of TFDP and AHRC (and his cousin). Video made.
- TFDP, Mindanao:
- Mary Ann Arnado, Sec. Gen. of Mindanao Peoples Caucus (MPC), lawyer (contact to Sophia Khan) 09177019775, 09202063792, handling legal cases for MPC (Indigenous peoples, IDP, agrarian reform, HR, Torture, VAW). mary_arnado@yahoo.com, maryann@mpc.org.ph. www.mpc.org.ph
- Mussah Tulawie, wife of Temogen Tulawie, mother of 5, Human Rights Defender
- Jun Aparece, assistant – coordinator for activities of Tulawie a.o.
- Christine, staff MPC, on Peace and HR

- Lennard Randon, legal assistant

General Santos

- Abina S. Rombawa, Moro Women's Centre Inc.(documenting torture cases and support to victims) morowomen@yahoo.com
- Fatima Pedro, wife of torture victim
- Hadja Noria Salipana, wife of torture victim Alex Salipada (Fatima and Hadja Nuria: recently identified case)
- Saiba Inga Lusani, wife of torture victim
- Joyce Ouano, community work including on torture victims, Gabriela
- Sadrach Sabella, pastor, community work including on torture victims, United Church of Christ in the Philippines, Karapatan

June 2

- Dep for Davao, Hong Kong

June 4

- Walden Bello, member of Parliament, Akbayan, telephone discussion + 63-02 931 5001 – ext 7292

Pakistan

Pakistan Visit – Schedule
Welmoed Koekebakker
Accompanied by Baseer Naweed, AHRC
4-9 June, 2012

4 June, Monday

Travel to Bangkok

5 June Tuesday

travel to Karachi

- PILER, Pakistan Institute of Labour Education & Research, ST-001, Sector X, Sub-Sector V, Gulshan-e-Maymar, Karachi 75340, +922136351145-7, www.piler.org.pk, piler@cyber.net.pk, Karamat Ali.
- Sharafat Ali, Manager Advocacy and Networking, PILER, +923422808259, sharafatali49@gmail.com
- MR Hasan Athar
- (Aurat Foundation, meet Ms. Mehnaz Rehman, chief of Sindh province; visit cancelled due to flight delay).
- Pakistan Fisher Folk Forum (PFF) – Karachi;
 - o Said Balouch, General Secretary;
 - o Tahera Ali, wife of Mohamed Ali Shah, leader of PFF;
 - o Ayoub Shan, Ayoub.Shan@yahoo.com (provided documents)
 - o Hasan Ata;
 - o Jameel, writer and mangrove protection campaign coordinator;
 - o Fizza
- Meeting with 19 PFF members, of which 5 women; including
 - o Said Balouch,
 - o Tahera Ali,
 - o Hajira,
 - o Shaheda,
 - o Sughra,
 - o Raima – all four from Kakkapir village - village of the two PFF leaders murdered;
 - o Abdullatif, Kakkapir village (abducted and tortured when reporting the case of the 2 murdered leaders);
 - o villagers from Gizri village.
- Pakistan Medical Association:
 - o Professor Tipu Sultan,
 - o Dr Mirza Azhar, Amnesty International
- Dinner with
 - o Ashikue Raza, Deputy Attorney General for Pakistan, 99203204,99203079, ashikuelegal@gmail.com
 - o Ali Ahmed Kurd, President of the Supreme Court Bar Association and Pakistan Bar Council; one of the leading lawyers in the lawyers movement; and four others.

6 June, Wednesday

- PILER
Meeting with 30 persons including
 - o Karamat Ali (Exec. Director),
 - o B.M. Kutty, Secretary, Managing Board, PILER

- Sharafat Ali,
- Fatima Farhat farhatfatima2000@yahoo.com
- Survey with questions on partnership with AHRC
- Meeting with AHRC communities: 18 victims, survivors of HRV and Torture, and activists, including
 - Ghulam Farooq,
Voice for Baloch Missing Persons, son of Ali Ashgar Bangulzai, from Balochistan, abducted twice, last time in 2001, since then missing; vbmp@gmail.com, Farooq.vbmp@gmail.com,
 - Abdul Razak Sarki,
from Jaccobabat, father of Fazila, abducted at the age of 4,
 - Venus Francis, and her daughter and grandson, mother of abducted and tortured boy, UA, 36351145, 0300-2406093
 - Mr. Butt, lawyer; son killed in “Police encounter”
 - Imran Usman, Trade Union activist of the Muslim Communal Bank, kidnapped and tortured, UA
 - Farhat Perween,
National Organisation for Working Communities; and Oxfam supported peace campaign
 - Mir Zulfiqar Ali, National Organisation for Working Communities, director Programmes, and JAC – Joint Acton Committee for People’s Rights, nowcommunities@gmail.com
 - Saleha Athar, Network for Women’s Rights, vice-chairperson, member of International Committee of World March of Women for South Asia, sister of Baseer Naweed, +92214975554, +923002624840, saleha_athar@gmail.com
 - Sana Robab, YWDD
 - Altaf Hussein, Uncle of Parveen Bibi, used as a sex slave for more than a year, see photo, brother committed suicide; Urgent Appeal Case: AHRC-UAC-029-2012
 - Abid Zaidi, Human Rights Activist, Shia, arrested and held incommunicado and tortured for several months; and his wife
 - Arber Leghari, Journalist, nephew? of Zuleicha Leghari, 16, gang-raped, by criminals, in the presence of police, who just stood and watched, while her family was crying, and the criminals kept everyone at a distance firing in the air. Her uncle filed and FIR, then was murdered. Brother of a minister is involved. Zuleicha tried several times to commit suicide.
 - Hasan Murtaza, writer, researcher, Founder, Idara-e-Tehfuz-e-Asar-e-Shuhad-e-Islam Karachi, member of Human Rights Commission of Pakistan Karachi, member Arts Council of Pakistan Karachi, 110shaheed@gmail.com; (presented his documents)
- Meeting with Justice Rasheed A Razvi, senior advocate Supreme Court, member Pakistan Bar Council, President of PILER, one of the leaders of the Lawyers Movement

7 June, Thursday

Flight to Lahore

- Visit arranged by **Munawar Ali Shahid**, Special Correspondent for Human Rights Affairs, Daily Mashriq, Lahore=Quetta-Hub, Small Voices For Peace, Ahmadija community, Amnesty International +923454993584 spmuda.pakistan@gmail.com, munawarshahid1@gmail.com
- Venue: “Safe place” in Lahore, Supported by ICO e.a., Anslem Daniel, 0333-4622312
- Meeting with AHRC communities; victims and survivors of torture and HRV; and social activists and Human Rights activists
 - Chairperson: **Bushra Khaliq**, coordinator; WISE – Women in Struggle for Empowerment, and co-organiser of ATA.
 - **Munawar Ali Shahid**, see above
 - **Qamar Suleman**, Ahmadija Community, from Rabwah
 - **Zameer Afaqi**, Journalist, victim of blasphemy act, daily city press, SA columnist council,
 - Ms. **Haleemabibi**, mother of Kiren George, girl working as a domestic worker, tortured and killed, by the family of her husband, mother was forced to sign a statement by thumb

saying that she will withdraw the case; family moved out for support of the community; scared to proceed legally; no support from Christian community, Khaled Shazad supports her case (see below) (discussion/Samson: need to establish a consortium to support her and other victims of minorities),

- **George Maseh**, father of Kiren
- **Khaled Shazad**, Human Rights activist and supporter of the case of Kiren
George, nonstick777@yahoo.com
- Samson Salamat, Centre for Human Rights Education
(<http://www.fundsforngos.org/pakistan>)
- **Nasreen**, mother of Shazia, 13 years, Lahore, domestic worker, raped and tortured and murdered, (UA yes)
- (Ch. Muhammad) **Shafiq Dogar** (husband of Rifat Rani), president of Star Welfare Civil Society welfare organization – “Protecting Human Rights”;. 0321-6001323, 048-3717786, newstarcablenetwork@gmail.com, starwelfare@yahoo.com, www.starwelfare.org, www.sargodha.net,
- **Rifat Rani**, www.starwelfare.org, (wife of Shafiq Dogar), 0321-6001323, 0300-9607123, star.welfare@yahoo.com. UA
- **Nadia Gulam**, Sheikhparg, girl, gang-raped by police men, No UA. 92-3414315183
- with Nadia’s mother Perveen
- and Nadia’s father Ghulam Razul
- **Sadaqat Sardar**, Association for Peace and Prosperity, Toba Teri Singh, rare case of successful case of peace building between two communities – many UAs, contact_app@yahoo.com, seekingpeace63@yahoo.com
- Roohi, wife of Sardar, contact_app@yahoo.com
- **Hameed Gondal**, South Asia Partnership
- **Maqsood Ahmed**
- **Arif Ahmed**, advocate Star Welfare
- **Zakiya Arshad**, SAAP, women’s activist
- Phone discussion with Imran Bajwa, Exec. Dir of FM 103, one of the leading popular radio stations broadcasting in 5 provinces including Kashmir – partner of AHRC.
- Dinner with family of Baseer Naweed

8 June, Friday

We visit the grave of Faraz Ahmed, the son of Baseer Naweed.

- Jail visit, Karachi Central Prison, model prison, Youthful Offenders Industrial School, and Women’s prison
 - Justice Nasir Aslam Zahid,
 - Nida Paracha, Human Rights student, worked with female prisoners in Karachi Central Prison. nidaparacha@gmail.com
 - Superintendent of the YOIS, Shakir Hussain Shah
 - Superintendent of the Women’s department Shebha Shah
 - Meeting with women prisoners
 - Meeting with Indian fishermen (Yatin Welji, 14, Yunagadh)
 - Meeting with youth prisoners
 - Meeting with Seher, NGO undertaking prison visits, teachers, psychologist, medical doctor Zeeshan e.a.
 - (The Karachi Central prison is a model prison that is not representative for the overall prison conditions in Pakistan)
- Karachi Bar Association (KBA); venue: Karachi High Court
 - Mr. Ashikue Raza, Deputy Attorney General for Pakistan, High Court Building, 99203204,99203079, ashikuelegal@gmail.com
 - Mr. Ali Ahmed Kurd, President of the Supreme Court Bar Association and Pakistan Bar Council; one of the leading lawyers in the lawyers movement; aliahmed_kurd@hotmail.com

- Mr. Ejaz;
- Mr. Sohail Hameed 0300-37317536
- Mr. Munir
- Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP). Founded 1986 by Dorab Patel. Aiwan-i-Jahmoor, 107-Tipu Block, New Garden Town, Lahore 54600, (+9242)35865969, 35838341, hrcp@hrcp-web.org
 - Syed Shamsuddin, coordinator
 - Asad Iqbal Butt, activist, President of the Union
 - Taranum Khan, programme officer, activist, data collector, writer
 - Amarnath Motumal, vice chair of HRC-P, Sindh chapter (Hindu community)
 - Mr. Abdul Hai, assistant coordinator & field officer, trade unionist, fact finding since 50 years.
- Meetings at Karachi Press Club, <http://www.karachipressclub.com/>
 - Moosa Kaleem, staff reporter, Dawn media group, moosakaleem786@yahoo.com
 - Shahid Husain, special correspondent, Jang Group of Newspapers (in jail and tortured after writing pamphlet against Shah of Iran), shahid.husain@thenews.com.pk
 - Tahir Hasan Khan, senior staff reporter, President, Karachi Press Club; peace activist, involved in Pakistan India People's Forum for Peace and Democracy (<http://www.pipfpd.org>); tahir.hasan@thenews.com.pk; khan.tahirhkh@gmail.com
- Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists, www.pfuj.pk
 - Muhammad Amin Yousuf, Secretary General, aminpfuj@gmail.com, kujamin@gmail.com; amin.yousuf@pfuj.pk,
 - Abdul Quddoos, Senior Reporter, Daily "AMN", Karachi, quddoos62@hotmail.com
 - Ashraf Khan, Associated Press, ashrafkhan1@gmail.com, akhan@ap.org. Are UA helpful? "I am the direct beneficiary .." etc see notes p 119
 - Shakeel Silawat, Associated Press, silawatype@hotmail.com
- Meeting hosted by Munir Malik at Karachi Club
 - Munir Malik, senior lawyer in Supreme Court, former President of Supreme Court Bar Association, activist, started the Lawyers Movement 2007, imprisoned in a barred prison in Punjab, tortured, no food; refused to be released on accepting his separation from the movement;
 - Salahuddin Ahmed, Barrister-at-Law, High Court judge, son of Sabihuddin, salahuddin@paklaw.com
 - Iqbal Haider, Senator, senior advocate Supreme and High Courts, former Attorney general and federal Minister for Law, Justice, Parliamentary Affairs & Human Rights, created the Ministry of Human Rights (mid nineties); Secretary General of Human Rights Commission of Pakistan, prominent Human Rights activist.
 - Ms. Nausheen Ahmad, Barrister-at-law, Company secretary & head legal at Habib Bank, one of the founding members of the Women's Action Forum (fought for women's rights during military govt. of Zia ul Haq), board of Shirkat Gah, works on Hudud ordinance and discriminatory laws against women; nausheen.ahmad@hbl.com, +922132415623
 - Mohamed Aqil, former President of Karachi bar Association, lawyer, member of the executive Committee of the Pakistani Bar Council,
 - Rafiq Safi Munshey, lawyer, activist, arrested during Ziaul Haq, imprisoned for 14 years, 2 years incommunicado; +922135844810; 0300-8228903; a.nausheen@gmail.com
 - Zain Sheikh, Advocate, Supreme Court, and writer, journalist; zain@zainassociates.com
- Flight to Hong Kong

China

Schedule Field Visit and list of persons consulted China - Evaluation visit AHRC/ALRC 21 June – 27 June, 2012 Welmoed Koekebakker, Wong Kai Shing, Kit Chan		
Date/Place	Individuals and Groups	Working relations with ALRC
21 June Guangzhou	Train to Guangzhou Ms. Kong Fanhua (Alena), Lecturer of Law, Huanan Normal University Law School; Legal Aid Centre of South China, Normal University; worked in the Centre for Protection of the Rights of Disadvantaged Citizens (Wuhan) Train to Wuhan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Involvement in the public interest litigation (PIL) platform - Advocacy on the implementation of minimum wage
22 June Wuhan	Center for Protection of the Rights of Disadvantaged Citizens of Wuhan University Ms. Lin Lihong, Professor of Law. Director of the center Ms. Li Ao, Professor of Law Mr. Huang Qihui, Lecturer of Law	Long working relationship on the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Co-organizing workshops on the ICESCR and PIL - Members of writing team of the textbook for ICESCR - Conducting research on the issues of torture - Involvement in the PIL platform
22 June Wuhan	Public Interest and Development Law Institute (PIDLI) of Wuhan University Ms. Huang Zhong Mr. Ding Peng Ms. Jiang Yitong	Working relationship on the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Publication of the Chinese E-newsletters of the Rule of Law Asia - Conducting workshop on ESC rights - Participants of the legal exchange program to Hong Kong
22 June Wuhan	Mr. Zeng Xiangbin, Lawyer on	Involvement in the PIL platform

	environmental issues	
23-24 June Beijing	Flight to Beijing, Rest	
25 June	<p>Beijing Impact Law Firm</p> <p>Mr. Wang Zhenyu, Lawyer</p> <p>Mr. Xu Jian Guo</p> <p>Mr. Wang</p> <p>Yang Zuofu</p> <p>other lawyers attending ALRC workshop on ICESCR, PIL 2011</p>	<p>Working relationship on the following areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conducting workshop on the ICESCR and PIL for lawyers - Involvement in the PIL platform
25 June	<p>Mr. Huang Jinrong, Legal scholar</p> <p>Mr. He Hairen, Lawyer</p>	<p>Working relationship on the following areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conducting workshops on the PIL and due process rights - Involvement in the PIL platform - Mr. Huang was the member of writing team of the textbook for ICESCR and the editor of the book
25 June	<p>Mr. Chen Ruihua, Professor of Law, Peking University Law School</p> <p>Ms. Shi Hongying</p> <p>Jiao Peng</p> <p>Few other lawyers taking part in the consultations on criminal defence</p>	<p>Working relationship on the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Organizing the participation of criminal lawyers to take part in the consultations on criminal defence - Conducting research and seminar on the issues of torture and judicial reforms
26 June	<p>Mr. Li Dan, Director, Dongjen Centre for Human Rights Education and Action</p> <p>Dongjen Center for Human Rights Education and Action (Dongjen), is a Beijing based non-government, non-profit organisation that aims to use Human Rights education to promote the realisation of a truly Chinese Human Rights (HR) culture; and to protect the rights of marginalised groups, especially people affected by HIV/AIDS.</p> <p>Dongjen was originally established in January 2003 under the name of China</p>	<p>Major local partner in China</p> <p>Co-organiser on general HR training for grassroots NGOs in Beijing & Yunnan province.</p>

	<p>Orchid AIDS Project (COAP). It initially aimed to provide assistance to AIDS orphans and HIV/AIDS affected families in Henan province.</p> <p>In 2009, COAP changed its name to become Dongjen and assumed the role of human rights educator.</p>	
26 June	<p>Ms. Zheng Xiaojie, Director, Hong Dandan Educational and Cultural Exchanging Centre.</p> <p>Mr. Xiao Shen, organiser</p> <p>Beijing Hong Dan Dan Educational and Cultural Exchanging Centre (capability building for disabilities) is a non-profit organization initiated by three media professionals who were enthusiastic in public welfare undertaking.</p> <p>It was established on 30 July, 2003 and is dedicated to edu-culture communication and training for disabilities.</p> <p>With the philosophy of “Teach a Man to Fish”, Hong Dandan boosted disabilities employment by creating jobs, dedicating to improve the disabilities’ ability of participating in social life, especially focusing on providing technology training for them in media producing area, and creating opportunities for them to join the mainstream society.</p>	<p>Former participant to HR training for grassroots NGOs in Beijing.</p> <p>Co-organiser on HR training for the community of visually impaired in Beijing.</p>
26 June	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ms. Yang Yang Assistant Researcher, Social Resources Institute 2. Mr. Li Mingyu Programme officer, Beijing Cultural Communication Center for Facilitators 3. Mr. Wang Baoyi Secretary, Tianjin Home for Haemophilic Patients 	<p>Former participants to HR training for grassroots NGOs in Beijing</p> <p>Participants of Exchange Programmes to HK and recipients of small grants</p>
26 June	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ms. Chen Yifang, Selina (2008) PKU, student of Law 2. Mr. Chen Tangwen(2008) WHU, student of Law 3. Mr. Fang Kecheng (2009) PKU, student of Journalism 4. Mr. Bai Yunfei (2010) PKU, students of Linguistic 	<p>Former participants to the Student Legal Exchange Programmes.</p> <p>The students were from different disciplines, and except for Mr. Chen Tangwen of Wuhan, all attended LLM (human rights) at the Law School of Peking University, Beijing.</p>

27 June in All Saints bookshop	<p>Ms. Xu Bin, Convener, Tongyu (Common Language)</p> <p>Founded in January 2005, Common Language is a community-based support and rights group for lesbian, bisexual women and transgendered people (LBT) in China. By promoting sustainable LBT community organizing, and by building communication and coalition among different groups of people, we aim to empower LBT community, fight the discriminating attitude towards sexual minorities, improve the general social environment and advocate for LGBT equal rights in China.</p>	Partner in co-organising HR training for the community of LGBTI in the Beijing and Yunnan regions.
27 June	<p>Ms. Bai Guimei, Professor of Law School, Peking University, Beijing</p> <p>Program director, Human Rights Master Program jointly run by Peking University Law School and Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, Sweden</p>	Legal Exchange Programme for LLM (human rights law) students
27 June	Flying back to Hong Kong	

4. Surveys undertaken during the evaluation

List of Surveys undertaken during the evaluation

The evaluation undertook 13 surveys:

AHRC and meetings in AHRC

- Board of AHRC
- Rule of Law meeting participants
- Folkschool participants
- Interns
- Staff on Most Significant Outcome
- Staff on Overall Outcome

Philippines

- Task Force Detainees of the Philippines TFDP
- CTUHR

Pakistan

- PILER
- Karachi victims and human rights defenders
- Lahore victims and human rights defenders

China

- Public Interest Litigation Platform
- Students Legal Exchange Programme

Survey: China - participants Public Interest Litigation Platform

Survey with participants of the Public Interest Litigation Platform and the workshop on Public Interest Litigation for lawyers

Beijing Impact Law Firm, 25 June 2012

Wang Zhenyu, Xu Jian Guo. Wang, Yang Zuofu and other lawyers attending ALRC workshops on ICESCR, PIL

Working relationship with ALRC on the following areas:

- Conducting workshop on the ICESCR and PIL for lawyers
- Involvement in the PIL platform

Six (6) respondents.

Questions on Cooperation between participants of the Public Interest Litigation Platform and ALRC

- Has the cooperation with ALRC benefited you in your work?
- Has the cooperation with ALRC benefited you at a personal level?
- What have you contributed to them?

Has the cooperation with ALRC benefited you in your work?

Answers:

1. Building broader communication channels
2. It has strengthened my thoughts on other professional areas besides the legal aspects of rights. For example, I think that the policy of Beijing government on restricting people of foreign household to buy house in Beijing is unfair. The reason given by the government is to control the rise of housing price. If I consider this policy only from the legal views on fairness and rights without bringing into the unreasonable aspect of the policy from an economic point of view, it will be impossible for me to convince the government to change this policy.
3. The training has broadened my perspective and got me to know other public interest lawyers. I learned many practical experiences which can help me a lot on how to do better in conducting public interest litigation. Privately speaking, it has been very useful to strengthen mutual links and cooperation.
4. The training (1) helped me to understand the content of the international covenant which broaden my perspective in considering a case from different perspectives; (2) I made many new friends and benefited from the exchange of skills among lawyers; (3) the problems were discussed together with the aspect of skills in a more interactive way, which is different and better than other training only focusing on skills.
5. Broaden my perspective. Put my ideas of training into practice. Help to get more external partners to us. Build relationships with organizations and people with common ideas.
6. Providing opportunities of learning and exchange that help me a lot to improve our work of public interest litigation.

Assessment:

The responses are very consistent. Participants of the Platform on Public Interest Litigation report that the cooperation with ALRC has:

1. Broadened their communication channels and network (4x), in particular with PIL lawyers, and with organisations and people with common ideas,
2. Strengthened mutual cooperation,
3. Improved their work, in particular on PIL (5x); it has provided practical experiences on PIL, put ideas into practice, they have learned from skills of other lawyers,
4. Broadened their perspective (5x): Learned on rights, strengthened multi-disciplinary thinking on rights,
5. Provided new training methods,
6. Given them “many new friends”.

Has the cooperation with ALRC benefited you at a personal level?

Answers:

1. Formation of new working direction and approach
2. It helped to broaden my perspective. I learned about what other lawyers were doing and the kinds of cases they handled. This gave me insights on my way of handling cases. It helped to strengthen my ability of handling cases. Through the exchange of experience among lawyers during the meeting, I learn from other lawyers the methods and skills of handling cases.
3. I learned many good litigation skills that improve my litigation strategy. This helped me to achieve the goals in litigations and increase my professional capacity. When coming across difficult and complicated cases, we can use the resources of this team of lawyers.
4. Through this training, I become not to limit myself to consider a case only from the legal point of view. The training has stimulated my interests in the subjects of economic and sociology. It increased my sense of social responsibility.
5. Broaden my perspective and understand the experience of other individuals and organizations. Help to make sure about the direction of development and the focal points of work of the organization to make the training of public interest lawyers to be our key work.
6. n.a.

Assessment:

The answers are quite consistent. Participants of the Platform on Public Interest Litigation report that on a personal level the cooperation with ALRC has provided them with:

1. new working directions, a new approach, the direction of development, increased my sense of social responsibility
2. broadened perspective, insights in the way to handle cases, multidisciplinary approach (3x)
3. increased my professional capacity, strengthened ability to handle litigation cases, methods and skills, focusing the organization on PIL (3x)
4. team building, mutual cooperation, ability to use the resources of this team.

What have you yourself contributed?

Answers:

1. Deepening the understanding on the real situation of China.
2. n.a.
3. Help to understand the difficulties in the reality.Help to understand the situation of public interest lawyers in conducting litigations.Help to develop focused training. Improve the content of training
4. Provide innovation for training. From theoretical studies to the follow-up on cases Expand the team of public interest (human rights) lawyers in China,
5. ALRC can understand the present situation of China and the experience of Chinese public interest lawyers.ALRC can promote the exchange between China and other countries in the world in political, economic and cultural aspects.
6. n.a.

Assessment:

The answers are quite diverse and they present a wide range of aspects.

Participants of the PIL platform think they have themselves contributed to ALRC and to the PIL platform in the following areas:

1. Helped ALRC to better understand the present real situation in China and the difficulties in reality (3x)
2. Help ALRC to understand the situation of PIL (public interest) lawyers in conducting litigations (2x); helped expand the team of public interest (human rights) lawyers in China,
3. Helped to develop innovative, focused training, with improved content (2x), and a combination of theory and practical follow-up on cases,
4. Helped ALRC to promote the exchange between China and other countries.

5: China: Outcome of Assessment of Partners' Perceptions on the Value of the ALRC Partnership

1. New perspective on Human Rights and Legal and Institutional Reform, in particular on how to use the ICESCR for Public Interest Litigation, and on criminal law procedure.

- Zeng: It widened my perspective on Public Interest Litigation: processes, methodology, experiences, How to practically do PIL,
- We could applying what we learned (Zeng, Lin Lihong, Wang),
- Wu: I learned about PIL, and my ideas on reform and revolution,
- Survey PIL platform: it improved my work, in particular on PIL; provided practical experiences on PIL; put ideas into practice; learned from skills of other lawyers, Inspiration from the Japanese PIL lawyer; broadened perspective (5x); learned on rights, strengthened multi-disciplinary thinking on rights; new working directions, new approach; increased sense of social responsibility; insights in the way to handle cases; multidisciplinary approach increased my professional capacity; strengthened ability to handle litigation cases; methods and skills; focusing the organization on PIL.
- Kong Fanhua: ALRC input was: Helping to understand the Covenant (ICESCR), Strengthening our perspective (on health, discrimination). Helping us to focus on the government (reform), Helping to develop the PIL platform.
- Trainees of Human Rights training for grassroots NGOs and Exchange Programmes report that they have learned from ALRC: A rights based approach, and how to put this in practice in concrete action for rights of disadvantaged people,
- Former participants to the Student Legal Exchange Programmes: It helped me to understand the economic, political and social context, and the concept of Human Rights.
- Lin: We have learned a lot on international Human Rights standards – the Covenants. We learned on HR and PIL, We developed a deeper understanding on ESCR, the Covenant, and human rights mechanisms,
- Huang Jinrong, He Hairen: In 2006 we organised a meeting on PIL in Asia with lawyers from several countries. We consider it a successful meeting. At that time PIL was just starting, we learned from India, Korea, Indonesia. The lawyers from South Korea and The Philippines impressed me very much, at that time they had the kind of experience we face now. It was not yet sensitive! We learned more about PIL when the team went to India. The 2006 meeting opened a gate, it was the first of its kind, it was historic, unprecedented. The participants of the 2006 meeting are now all major players in the PIL field. Also: importance of meetings on criminal defense, questioning article 306 of the Criminal Law (the lawyer perjury provision), comparing the system of China with other countries.
- Chen Ruihua, Jiao Peng: The consultations on criminal procedure impressed me so much. The visits to HK and Seoul influenced me: with the recent revision of the criminal law similar practices are introduced, so what we learn in HK we can use in this context. We were involved in the recommendations for the revision of the criminal law, and the experiences in HK and Seoul were directly feeding into our recommendations. So that was very useful. We learned for example about the right of the lawyer to meet the client; the exclusion of illegally collected evidence; cross-examination. And we met with “Lawyers for a Democratic Society” in Seoul. They play an important role! If we could play such a role in China....The draft of the criminal procedure law: We recommended to follow international standards on torture. The right to have a lawyer, the right of the accused are also a concern.
- Hong Dan Dan: ALRC gave us professional legal knowledge; with the legal knowledge we assist blind people in empowering themselves,
- Dongjen: it gave us enlightenment on rights based strategies – before, we did not know about Human Rights in a comprehensive way.

2. Working strategically

- It influenced me to work more strategically: identification of strategic cases that can have a wider impact (Lin Lihong, Wu, Zeng and others),
- It encouraged me to focus on working in the interest of the victim and choosing a strategic niche (Zeng, environment & health & victims),
- Beijing Impact Law Forum: it changed my way of working: from as many cases as possible to: as much wider impact as possible. I am working more strategically.
- Kong Fanhua: advise and other support, resources,
- Public Interest Litigation Platform: We have discussions on the strategies, on a case-to-case basis; I was working on a PIL case. In the meeting there were some very experienced lawyers. I learned from them to do the PIL more strategically. During the meeting we discuss the cases in detail, for example the right to food, child development.
- Bai Guimei: We also learn from them, we also keep low profile. We can do small things but for a longer time. This is good at this time, where Human Rights are still sensitive. We leap forward and then go back. Our cooperation is very stable, safe. So we can go on longer.

3. Training, Research, working together

- Lin Lihong: We benefited most from training. Consultation on due process meetings. Rule of Law meetings. Other cooperation on workshops. The “Textbook on ICESCR in China” producing the book was a learning process. The way to do trainings. The experience of conducting empirical studies, the empirical research on Torture. The work is based on real partnership, we work together.
- Kong Fanhua: ALRC provided sources for case litigation, research, studies, and seminars
- Public Interest Litigation Platform: the trainings are unique opportunities for us.
- Huang Jinrong, He Hairen: courses on ESC Rights, they were very useful and the platform was very useful. Writing the textbook on ICESCR: it was really hard, took 4 years, I had to organise many people, it was published last year. It has been used in training courses in Beijing University and in Yunnan.
- Hong Dan Dan: Training of Trainers (ToT), so that ultimately blind can be their own trainers, also on human rights and legal rights; assist blind people in empowering themselves.
- Former participants to the Student Legal Exchange Programmes: I learned: values.
- Xu Bin: ALRC has been a great help, for HR training and education, we do not have access to rights based training; rights consciousness is a key for this movement. There is a need to broaden the horizon. The need for such trainings is really huge!

3. Inspiration

- Inspiration – Li Dan, Dongjen
- Kong Fanhua: I did not know the Covenant before, Kai Shing introduced it to us: I suddenly felt aware, a sense of awakening, and I use the Covenant to assess the present system.
- BILF: I got a lot of inspiration from the Rule of Law meeting
- Former participants to the Student Legal Exchange Programmes: I was very impressed by the enthusiasm and passion of people like Kit and Kai Shing – they are very idealistic and not materialistic. I tried to learn that – being more idealistic and less materialistic
- Bai Guimei: They encouraged me to work on HR for the rest of my life. I am being encouraged.
- Wu: Wow!

4. Platform building

- Survey Public Interest Litigation Platform: communication channels, network with common people, mutual cooperation.
- Public Interest Litigation Platform: Every year I have new gains from these meetings! On exchange and training: for me, I learned a lot from the exchange with other Asian participants; I have many cases of PIL inspired by other Asian colleagues. I am lucky. There are a lot of things happening in these 3 days. I learned. We like to learn more from ALRC! In this network we also cooperate with Professor Lin. Some of us are handling similar cases, so this becomes a network of

support. Building cooperation among lawyers, for example in cases. The lawyers highly value this platform.

- Public Interest Litigation Platform: The platform becomes a support network.
- Kong Fanhua: Ms. Wu (in the Platform) helps us on disability cases.
- Dongjen: ALRC helped us to create networks, exchange, equal partnership – our strength is our knowledge/contacts with grassroots in China.

5. International exchange

- international experience and perspective, inspiration from Japanese, Pakistani, Indian lawyer: experiencing Rule of Law in Hong Kong.
- Public Interest Litigation Platform: Xu went to the Rule of Law meeting. Many lawyers in China are not rich. These meetings provide a wider perspective. We treasure these visits.
- Impressed with Folkschool (Bai Guimei)
- Students were impressed with the Legal Exchange programme (Bai Guimei)
- Dongjen: ALRC broadened our vision (visit to Japan, UPR).

6. Strengthening self-image as independent professional lawyer

- PIL meetings influenced my self-image as an independent professional lawyer (Zeng and others),
- Inspiration from the Pakistani Lawyers movement (Beijing Impact Law Firm).
- Chen Ruihua, Shi Hongying, Jiao Peng: In China, lawyers do not see an independent role for themselves. In Asian countries lawyers can be important in promoting Rule of Law! I am enthusiastic. I learned how lawyers can be part of a struggle for change. And the need for recognition of the role of lawyers to defend their independence. We can learn much more (..) For example, a judge should be neutral, not be biased.

7. Respect, autonomy, trust

- Friendship, trust, reliability
- Kong Fanhua: What I appreciate in ALRC is that they respect our mind and our autonomy, they don't intervene; they don't interrupt what I think, they don't give me pressure - in China we have so much pressure from the government. They respect our freedom, our autonomy. Has along term approach. There is mutual trust. They make me happy.
- Survey PIL platform: Given me "many new friends".
- Dongjen: Friendship.
- Bai Guimei: they are unique. They know the mainland very well, they know how to deal with the government and how to cooperate with the people in the academia, there have never been any problems, no sensitivities. They have done a lot but kept low profile. They are not heroes but in my mind they are heroes. I also tell others.

8. Encouraging in difficult times

- Public Interest Litigation Platform: The platform becomes a support network. Sometimes this work is difficult, it affects me personally. Then the Platform makes me feel happy.
- Encouraging: the PIL platform, the NGOs, Prof. Wang, Prof. Lin Lihong
- Chen Ruihua, Jiao Peng: What we learned is HOPE. The "Long march for change", as you say. Sometimes we are quite depressed. It is difficult. When we visit other Asian countries – yes, we have some development but they have Rule of Law. When we see that, we gain hope, that is the greatest benefit of these visits. So my recommendation to ALRC is: continue.
- Bai Guimei: The situation is much worse that one year ago. When I have problems I think about them. They are doing it for us. If I have a problem, if I want to stop... they are there. Basil has a very good personality. I feel we have very close friends, we are not alone, I feel I have friends sitting behind us, supporting us. I do not have a religion but I believe in Human Rights.
- Lawyers present at the meeting with Professor Chen: "Giving us Hope". What we learned from this experience is HOPE. The "Long march for change". Sometimes we are quite depressed. It is difficult. When we visit other Asian countries – yes, we have some development but they have Rule of Law. When we see that, we gain hope, that is the greatest benefit of these visits. So my recommendation to ALRC is: continue.

9. Capacity building for NGOs and training on Rights

- Dongjen, Xu Bin: It contributed to building a perspective on civil society in China, the role of NGOs in China, Clarifying the concept and practice of rights of disadvantaged groups, a rights based approach, helped in creating effective strategies for NGOs, it helped in transforming from a charity approach to empowerment approach.
- Hong Dan Dan: ALRC assisted us in building capacities in people to empower themselves.

10. Organizational development, democratic organisational principles, critical thinking, open discussion, dialogue, decision making, innovative training methods

- Wu: In China we need that kind of meetings, that kind of teachers.
- Dongjen: Mentorship – on how to conduct workshops – systematic, localized, relevant. Capacity building – we are now seen as experts – helping us to go through a process of organizational transformation,
- Survey Public Interest Litigation Platform: It provided new training methods, team building, mutual cooperation, ability to use the resources of this team. Innovative focused training, with improved content (2x), and a combination of theory and practical follow-up on cases,
- Lin Lihong: The way to do trainings, the way to manage our work, the experience of conducting empirical studies, administrative processes.
- Former participants to the Student Legal Exchange Programmes: It helped me develop critical thinking. To discuss freely and openly.

6.The China programme - full text

See separate file

7. Pakistan Country project – Outcome 2010-2012

This is a concise report of the evaluation visit to Pakistan and the observations and findings on Outcome of the AHRC/ALRC 2010-2012 Programme in Pakistan.

'Intisaab'

Aaj ke naam
Aur
Aaj ke gham ke naam
Aaj ka gham ke hai zindagi ke bhare gulistan se khafa
Zard patton ka ban
Zard patton ka ban jo mera des hai
Dard ki anjuman jo mera des hai
(...)

Dedication

In the name of this day
and
In the name of this day's sorrow:
Sorrow that stands, disdaining the blossoming garden of Life,
Like a forest of dying leaves
A forest of dying leaves that is my country
An assembly of pain that is my country
(.....)

Poem by Pakistani poet Faiz¹⁹⁵

Pakistan – a personal account

I met numerous survivors of human rights violations and torture, and activists, human rights defenders, human rights lawyers, prisoners - I listened to and documented their stories and discussed with them how international solidarity can be strengthened - so as to protect and support those who work inside the country

Am impressed by the courage and persistence of victims who traveled long distances to tell me their stories, with incredible courage... a girl, gang-raped by police ... a father whose daughter is kidnapped, traffickeda trade unionist tortured in prison... parents and sisters of the leaders of fisherfolk, brutally murdered by land grabbers people who face torture for investigating the whereabouts of their disappeared beloved ones.... ahmadija and shi'a and christians expelled from their villageleaders of the lawyers' movement, incarcerated, tortured.... and nearly always impunity prevails

Obviously the outside support of the Asian Human Rights Commission means a lot to these survivors and human rights defenders - through their international 'Urgent Appeals' and other mechanisms

"I am alive thanks to AHRC - I want to make that clear. That - that I am here"¹⁹⁶

¹⁹⁵ See <http://razarumi.com/2008/05/28/intisaab-faiz-poem-with-translation>

¹⁹⁶ Rifat Rani - social worker from Sargodha – for full quotation see chapter on Torture prevention

Field visit Pakistan

The evaluator made a field visit to Pakistan from, accompanied by Baseer Naweed¹⁹⁷.

The AHRC Pakistan Country desk

The AHRC country desk operates under the guidance of Mr. Baseer Naweed.

Mr. Naweed is a well known journalist and community organizer in Pakistan; he has been the leader of one of Pakistan's most successful people's movements in recent history: the campaign against the Lyari Expressway.¹⁹⁸ The Lyari project displaced an estimated 250,000 persons; the campaign achieved a historical resettlement deal of an 80-square-yard plot and 50,000 rupees for every household, including women headed households. Baseer was also active in an anti-corruption campaign.

In what was evidently a targeted attack against Baseer, his son Faraz Ahmed was kidnapped, tortured and murdered¹⁹⁹. The perpetrators have never been punished.

Since Baseer Naweed has been the leading person at the Pakistan country desk for several years, the Pakistan programme has seen an increase of activities. Pakistani interns have supported the Pakistan desk and strengthened partnerships with their sending organisations. The Pakistan desk has addressed the full range of AHRC programmes in Pakistan²⁰⁰ – Urgent Appeals, Torture prevention, Institutional and Legal reforms, Right to Food, Folkschool, Internships, IT, International Advocacy, Publications, and Human Rights Defenders Awards²⁰¹.

Major outcomes

Three major outcomes of the Pakistan Country project can be observed in the period 2010-2012:

1. A strong partner network in Pakistan taking effective action on Human Rights and institutional reform and on protection of survivors of and Human Rights defenders,
2. An effective internet network on HRV and a powerful Urgent Appeal mechanism in Pakistan,
3. The Anti-Torture Coalition.

1: A strong partner network taking effective Human Rights action

Outcome 1: A strong partner network in Pakistan taking effective action on Human Rights and institutional reform and on protection of survivors and Human Rights defenders

197 Field visit 4-8 June, 2012, Karachi and Lahore; 13 evaluation meetings were held.

Evaluation methods involve; 5 Interviews (victims, lawyers and judges, Pakistan Medical Association, media); 3 Focus Group Discussions with victims and human rights defenders (Lahore, Karachi, Pakistan Fisherfolk Forum - PFF); 8 Group discussions with lawyers, human rights defenders, human rights institutions, media associations, research institutes (Meeting hosted by Munir Malik with leaders of the lawyers movement, 2 meetings hosted by Attorney General Ashikue Raza, Karachi Bar Association, Human Rights Commission of Pakistan, Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists, Karachi Press Club, Pakistan Institute of Labour Education and Research - PILER); 3 Semi-structured surveys (PILER, victims and HRD Karachi, victims and HRD Lahore); participatory observation; visits in loco (Karachi High Court, prison visit Karachi); study of documents, phone and skype discussions, video recording of testimonies.

For the field visit schedule and list of meetings and persons met, see Annex.

198 Forced Evictions – Towards Solutions? Second Report of the Advisory Group to the Executive Director of UN-Habitat, AGFE, UN-Habitat, 2007,

<http://books.google.nl/books?id=gbpwMRxCsegC&pg=PA25&lpg=PA25&dq=ahrc+Lyari+Expressway&source=bl&ots=VsxsyT2WP7&sig=2B1oQgOfjmKaL2-RbvSvfKAlIYI&hl=nl&sa=X&ei=5ZEKUPbDC8aZ0QW9ptTnCc&ved=0CGwQ6AEwBw#v=onepage&q=ahrc%20Lyari%20Expressway&f=false>; See also several AHRC UA's on Lyari Express Highway.

199 Jo Baker: 'My son was murdered and the police did nothing' – interview with Baseer Naweed, The Guardian Guardian Weekly, 8 September 2009

²⁰⁰See AHRC: The State of Human Rights in ten Asian Nations – Yearbook 2010 and 2011,

²⁰¹ Award given to former president of Pakistani Supreme Court Munir Malik and his successor Choudhry Ahsan, for details see AHRC/ALRC Work Programme 2010-2012 p 84

The AHRC Pakistan desk managed to develop a strong and effective network of Human Rights activists and Human Rights Defenders. The evaluator met representatives of this network in Lahore and Karachi; some of them had come from remote areas in Balochistan, Punjab, and Sindh. Interviews and meetings were held and activities were observed. Human rights activists agree that there is a tremendous need for awareness raising on rights particularly at the local level and in remote areas²⁰². It is encouraging that victims from remote areas sometimes seem to manage to catch up with circles of human rights defenders and their organisations. The support base is expanding obviously as an exponent of the growth of the number of activities, the range of activities taken up by AHRC and its partners, and the proactive identification of cases of human rights violations. The network has been developed to this extent in a relatively limited time span. The network operates under challenging circumstances, with Human Rights Defenders being tortured, killed, disappeared – irrespective of whether their names are world famous or unheard of.

AHRC is evidently playing an important role in encouraging human rights pioneers in establishing (new) local human rights organisations, as observed with Ghulam Farooq. The following narrative is quoted in Chapter 3, on Capacity Building (duplicated here):

Ghulam Farooq, Balochistan, Pakistan

Ghulam Farooq is the founder of Voice for Baloch Missing Persons. He is the son of Ali Ashgar Bangulzai from Balochistan, who was abducted twice, last time in 2001, and ever since then has been missing. Ghulam Farooq has been an AHRC intern.

Farooq travelled to Karachi to make an elaborate and emotional presentation about forced disappearances in Balochistan²⁰³. Farooq’s testimony is evidence of the effectiveness and relevance of the AHRC internship programme. Farooq lived as a poor tailor in his village in Balochistan until his father was disappeared. Farooq came forward as a human rights advocate. AHRC invited him as an intern and that is how he was trained to become a professional Human Rights Defender. Farooq is now a major human rights leader in Balochistan. A phenomenal leader in one of the worst, least accessible, least documented places in terms of human rights violations in Asia. Working under extremely risky conditions.

“Creating Human Rights leadership”: this is certainly one of the outcomes of the AHRC capacity building programme, though ‘leadership’ may not be mentioned as such in the PME Manual.

Farooq’s growth as a leader also negates the usual stereotypes about human rights leadership: no resources, no staff, no formal education, no facilities: but highly effective and highly relevant.

Farooq: "internships are a great achievement of the organization... they provide systematic human rights education and training... AHRC staff and interns work with great spirit and dedication.... (helping to) create international debate about the issues and draw the attention of humanitarian organizations to the human rights violations to take practical steps to stop violations”.

Human rights defenders like Farooq (VBMP) are invaluable partners in the network because of the remoteness and isolation of the area where he is based, and the gravity of human right violations and the prevailing impunity. The risk factors involved in his work are considerable.

Indicators for the strength of the network and the role of AHRC within the network in Pakistan are:

- large number of contacts and email distribution addresses, in general for Urgent Appeals and specifically for local action purposes (quantitative indicator),

²⁰² Outcome from the 3 surveys among victims and human rights defenders in Karachi and Lahore in this evaluation mission.

²⁰³ Evaluation meeting, 6 June, 2012, in Karachi. Farooq had travelled one day to make his presentation. “I want you to know this. I want you to hear my story and I want you to know my appreciation of AHRC”. see Annex: Ghulam Farooq, Balochistan, Pakistan, Voice for Baloch Missing Persons, statement, excerpt

- the ability to quickly mobilise relevant organisations and individuals, as observed in relation to cases of human rights violations,
- the ability to organize joint action on Human Rights – for example in the anti-Torture campaign.
- deep appreciation for AHRC’s interventions in Pakistan as expressed by network partners²⁰⁴,
- appreciation for AHRC’s undisputed ‘leadership’ role as a regional organization; several network participants conveyed the request to AHRC to extend its role and diversify its interventions.

The most significant indicators of the network are:

- it can effectively address Human Rights Violations, bringing cases of Human Rights Violations into the open, breaking the silence, getting redress to victims, organize protection,
- it effectively contributes to the discourse on Rule of Law and human rights (campaigns, media activities)
- it plays a vital role in legal and institutional reform in Pakistan (anti-torture bill, ATA).

There is no doubt that these indicators occur. That is a major conclusion of this evaluation visit, based on interviews, documents, surveys and observation.

“Coverage, in terms of diversity and relevance” is another indicator of the strength of the network.

- The network covers grass root activists, journalist unions (their leaders and support base), leaders of the lawyers and judges movement, social activists, women activists, researchers, religious minority activists, organisations representing marginalized section of society, community organisers, labour unions, major human rights organisations, as well as victims and their families, and human rights defenders.
- Women participation. There is a female leader in the anti-torture campaign and half of the participants in the meetings in Lahore and Karachi were women; the professional network however (lawyers, journalists) is nearly exclusively male.
- The network covers a wide political spectrum of progressive people while avoiding party affiliation.
- The network covers a range of capabilities: grass-root people (people knowledgeable of Human Rights Violations experienced by the poor and marginalized) as well as leaders and professionals,
- The grass root network is very much capable of bringing cases of HRV into the open (but more could be done),
- The network has a wide geographical coverage (Sindh, Punjab, Balochistan).

Another indicator of the strength of the network is: leverage and connections.

- The network is vital because of connections with the prominent leaders of people’s movements and organisations promoting legal and institutional change. As observed during the field visit, the network has strong connections with leaders of the lawyers movement (the world-unique movement for independence of the legal profession) including all layers of the judiciary; this was evident from the warm friendships with Baseer Naweed and the high profile reception organized for the AHRC evaluation mission by leaders of the lawyers movement (Munir Malik²⁰⁵, Iqbal Haider²⁰⁶ Ashikue Raza²⁰⁷, Ali Ahmed Kurd²⁰⁸, Rafiq Safi Munshey²⁰⁹, Zain Sheikh²¹⁰ and others). These connections translate into effective and mutually supportive working relationships²¹¹.

²⁰⁴ Expressed in several meetings with human rights defenders, victims, judiciary, CSOs, NGOs, during the evaluation mission.

²⁰⁵ Munir Malik, senior lawyer in the Supreme Court, former President of the Supreme Court Bar Association, activist, started the Lawyers Movement in 2007, imprisoned in a barred prison in Punjab, refused to be released on accepting his separation from the movement; awarded the AHRC Human Rights Defenders Award in 2008.

²⁰⁶ Iqbal Haider: Senator, senior advocate Supreme and High Courts, former Attorney general and federal Minister for Law, Justice, Parliamentary Affairs & Human Rights, created the Ministry of Human Rights (mid nineties); Secretary General of Human Rights Commission of Pakistan, prominent Human Rights activist.

²⁰⁷ Ashikue Raza, Deputy Attorney General for Pakistan.

²⁰⁸ Ali Ahmed Kurd, President of the Supreme Court Bar Association and Pakistan Bar Council; one of the leading lawyers in the Pakistani lawyers movement.

²⁰⁹ Rafiq Safi Munshey, lawyer, activist, arrested during Zia ul Haq, 14 years imprisoned, of which 2 years incommunicado.

²¹⁰ Zain Sheikh, Advocate, Supreme Court, and writer, journalist.

²¹¹ e.g. the Chief Justice of Provincial High Court of Sindh chairing the anti-Torture meeting on June 26, 2011.

- Similarly, there are strong bonds and mutually supportive relationships with leaders from the Journalists Unions: the Karachi Journalist Union, the Pakistan federal Union of Journalists, like Muhammad Amin Yousuf²¹², Ashraf Khan²¹³,
- Strong professional and personal relationships with PILER²¹⁴, internationally renowned institute on labour research and training; AHRC and PILER are planning institutional cooperation on setting up a local Urgent Appeals desk
- Cooperation with forums and umbrellas of community organisations like Pakistan Fisherfolk Forum (PFF); collaboration has covered UA's, internship, training, collaboration in campaigns;
- In addition, strong connections can be observed with women leaders, trade union leaders, community organisations and religious minority organisations. These connections reach beyond the 'organisational' level: they reflect a common mission and values, a common history with Baseer.

Appreciation for the Asian Human Rights Commission is expressed by all persons consulted during the evaluation mission.

- In the first place, all partners are seen to display a tremendous esteem for AHRC desk person Baseer Naweed.
- Deputy Attorney General Ashikue Raza: "AHRC is doing a tremendous job in this country. Highlighting the issues. Digging out the cases from the interior. There is a tremendous pressure from the international level on the authorities inside against these atrocities. AHRC is doing a commendable job. This has impact. For example, the *karo kari* cases in Balochistan and interior Sindh: in first instance they were denied, but then after AHRC issued an Urgent Appeal²¹⁵ the relevant agencies accepted the case."²¹⁶
- Munir Malik: "AHRC is a group of credible international persons. Names with moral authority." "During the lawyers movement there was a clampdown on the press, in that period AHRC was the only critical source of information. (...) I am grateful to AHRC".²¹⁷
- Several informants express appreciation for the critical non-party-affiliated stand of the AHRC Pakistan desk, as opposed to e.g the way the position of the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) and Asma Jahangir is perceived. Justice Rasheed Razvi²¹⁸: "Our relationship with AHRC made a lot of difference... with some major people in the Human Rights field in Pakistan becoming pro-government, like HRCP and Asma, we need partnership with an independent body. That is AHRC".
- Munir Malik: "In the context of the current Human Rights situation in Pakistan, AHRC has to play a role. A foreign-based organisation is vulnerable to charges: like "*a foreign based organization follows western interests*". This is a fine line. (...) AHRC provides us with invaluable resource materials".²¹⁹
- Justice Rasheed Razvi²²⁰: "The Urgent Appeals programme is most effective: within an hour after reporting a case there can be an international Urgent Appeal in Geneva ... it makes a difference... in terms of security, protection. Because of Baseer we think that AHRC is part of Pakistan ... At the time of the movement²²¹ we received international support but only AHRC continued to support us ... AHRC also supports us in the public discourse on the difference between "Rule-of-Law" and "Law and Order".²²²

²¹²Muhammad Amin Yousuf, Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists, Secretary General

²¹³Ashraf Khan, Associated Press, quoted in the chapter on Urgent Appeals acknowledging his gratitude to AHRC

²¹⁴PILER, Pakistan Institute of Labour Education & Research; Karamat Ali, Sharafat Ali.

²¹⁵Urgent Appeal Case: AHRC-UAC-070-2010, <http://www.humanrights.asia/news/urgent-appeals/AHRC-UAC-070-2010>

²¹⁶Ashikue Raza, Dep Attorney General, as conveyed to the evaluator, June 2012, Karachi

²¹⁷Munir Malik, communicated to the evaluator, 8 June 2012, Karachi

²¹⁸ Justice Rasheed Razvi, senior advocate Supreme Court, member of Pakistani Bar Council, one of the leaders in the Lawyers movement, president of PILER, as expressed to the evaluator, 6 June 2012, Karachi.

²¹⁹ Munir Malik, reported to the evaluator, 8 June, 2012, Karachi

²²⁰ Justice Rasheed Razvi, one of the leaders in the Lawyers movement, president of PILER, to the evaluator, 6 June 2012

²²¹ Lawyers movement: the mass movement initiated by Pakistani lawyers in response to the military dictator Musharraf unconstitutionally dismissing Chief Justice of Pakistan Chaudhry, March 2007. As the movement evolved it became symbol for a much wider set of democratic values.

²²² Justice Rasheed Razvi, as expressed to the evaluator, 6 June 2012

- Bushra Khaliq, one of the leaders of the Anti Torture Alliance²²³: “AHRC is capacitating us, giving us advise in how to cope with the situation. The liaison, this networking, was something missing - now ATA has provided this space. In Pakistan the HR situation is worsening and in this context the Human Rights framework - the alliance against Torture - has given us a lot of strength and capacities and has provided us strategies to make our work stronger”.
- In Karachi the evaluator visited Karachi Central Prison, accompanied by Justice Nasir Aslam Zahid²²⁴. In the women’s jail a young woman is waiting since 13 years for her death sentence to be executed. AHRC Baseer Naweed is raising the issue from a fundamental human rights perspective. Justice Nasir Aslam Zahid: “AHRC helps us in developing thinking among these jail officers. This perspective is one of AHRC’s strengths”.
- Qamar Suleman, from the Anmadija community, Rabwah: “I really appreciated the efforts of Naweed Baseer who always stood up against ny torture to the Ahmadiyya community. I hope we will have good relationships in future”.²²⁵

Appreciation for the work of AHRC is also conveyed by the Pakistani fisherfolk movement²²⁶:

- A meeting with 19 villagers from Kakkapir, a fisherfolk village, on June 6th. The village, 500 inhabitants, all fisher families, try to protect their mangroves against local land mafia goons planning to evict them. The goons killed their two leaders. “They were the most compassionate brave charismatic leaders you can think of. Also for us, women. They helped us to establish girls’ schools and health centres”. “We need justice. Please, help us”. A young leader, Abdullatif, tried to report to the police but police protected the perpetrators. He was abducted, tortured, thrown in the sea, left for dead – but survived. Abdullatif: “AHRC visited us, issued an Urgent Appeal and organized international support”.²²⁷ Hajira, the mother of Abu Bakr, one of the murdered leaders: “AHRC made our case widely known, and they provided lawyers, and they made our case legally very strong”.²²⁸ Tahera Ali, woman leader of Pakistan Fisherfolk Forum²²⁹: “AHRC also made our case very powerful at international level – even before the killings of the leaders in Kakkapir ...AHRC helped us to fight and stood with us²³⁰”. Jameel, PFF, campaign coordinator for protection of mangroves: “The Urgent Appeals were very helpful in raising media attention, also internationally. If we can’t bring the perpetrators to justice, we can at least protect the mangroves. Outcome: people are aware and ready to protest massively; officials are aware; we have extensive media coverage, and land grabbers are more conscious.”²³¹

Another type of indicator for the strength of the network is: Solidity resulting from AHRC’s constant inputs in Capacity Building and Leadership development.

- As has been demonstrated in the chapter on AHRC’s capacity building approach²³², capacity building and leadership building informs all AHRC’s activities. AHRC’s capacity building approach appears to be successful in generating a strong pool of human rights activists.

223 Bushra Khaliq: One of the leaders of anti-torture coalition ATA; participant at AHRC’s Rule-of-Law meeting 2012. As expressed to the evaluator in a meeting with victims and human rights defenders in Lahore, chaired by Bushra, 7 June. 2012.

224 Justice Nasir Aslam Zahid, Justice; participant in Rule of Law meeting 2012; in a discussion with the evaluator, 8 June 2012.

225 Qamar Suleman, during meeting with victims and human rights defenders in Lahore, 7 June, 2012.

226 organized by PFF: Pakistan Fisherfolk Forum. On the struggle of fisherfolk in Pakistan and in particular the case of the murder of the human rights activists of Kakkapir village, see: PFF struggle for Conservation and Protection of Mangroves Forests, Report, PFF, Karachi, 2011,

http://www.google.nl/url?sa=t&ret=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=4&sqi=2&ved=0CFYQFjAD&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.escri-net.org%2Fusr_doc%2FPFF_Report.pdf&ei=8PwKUPmke7OY1AWz4PiqCg&usq=AFQjCNHY679EGNwTfByRDpJb3nUbtS7DLQ&sig2=Igi3syTwJ5eiviV2AXLItQ

227 Abdullatif, leader of fisherfolk village Kakkapir, torture survivor, to the evaluator, 6 June 2012.

228 Hajira, the mother of Abu Bakr, one of the murdered leaders of fisherfolk village Kakkapir, as communicated to the evaluator, 6 June 2012, Karachi

229 Communicated by Tahera Ali, woman leader of Fisherfolk Forum, senior vice-person, to the evaluator, 6 June 2012

230 See AHRC UAs, UAU and statements, e.g. AHRC-UAC-008-2011, 22 January 2011; AHRC-STM-074-2012, 29.3.2012

231 Jameel, PFF, writer, campaign coordinator to protect the mangroves, to the evaluator, 6 June 2012

232 See elsewhere in this report: AHRC and ALRC Programmes: Capacity Building - chapter 3.3

- In Pakistan this involves a wide range of formal and informal interventions including meetings, discussions, telephone calls, mails, pro-actively identifying human rights defenders, connecting them to other activists in Pakistan, mobilizing on issue based campaigns, feeding them with articles and research and analysis, joint activities, coalition building. Capacity building also includes supporting people to transform from victims feeling defeated because they have lost their loved ones, into human rights defenders – people who can handle their fear and pain, and are equipped with professional capabilities to advocate human rights.
- It also involves inviting them to seminars, consultations, Folkschool, Rule of Law meetings, trainings, including leadership training, cadre-ship building and support to the creation of new human rights organisations.
- A remarkable example of human rights defenders involved in AHRC’s capacity building is Ghulam Farooq, the founder of Voice for Baloch Missing Persons – see the cadre, before²³³.
- The network is demanding more trainings²³⁴, which is an indication for the quality of the network and the appreciation of the trainings.
- Apparently, the ‘output’ of this capacity building approach is tremendous, at a personal level, and as a solidifying factor for the network.

So, Capacity Building and leadership training is a vital aspect of the AHRC-work in Pakistan and this evidently adds to the solidity and quality of the network.

Perceptions of victims and partners on the network: surveys

Appreciation of the network and the partnership with AHRC is also expressed in the partner meetings with victims, human right defenders, lawyers, CSOs and researchers. This is evident from the outcome of the 3 surveys in Karachi and Lahore. See below.

Perceptions on the network and on AHRC Partnership: Lahore meeting - Victims, HRD, lawyers and CSOs Survey

Participants of the evaluation meeting in Lahore with victims, human rights defenders, lawyers and CSOs see the human rights network and the partnership with AHRC as very relevant for them.

This was expressed during the meeting and in the responses to the evaluation survey.²³⁵

Participants mention a number of reasons why they perceive the network and AHRC partnership as beneficial: “the impact of the Urgent Appeals on my case”, “capacity building”, “learning advocacy and lobby”, “I was morally strong, but we will be stronger thanks to the support of AHRC”, “Inspiration and motivation to help victims”, “this network was something missing, it gives us strength”.

Recommendations from the Lahore meeting:

- to expand the network to involve more local CBO’s and grassroots organisations; to build good relations with other NGO’s and CBO’s at village level and develop a network of human rights NGOs, with training for volunteers.
- to make a strategy plan on human rights in Pakistan.

Perceptions on AHRC Partnership: PILER Survey

The results from the survey with PILER staff on AHRC partnership:²³⁶

²³³ Others include Abbas, from PILER, trained on Urgent Appeals in view of establishing an Urgent Appeal desk in Pakistan, and Mirza Qurat, joined AHRC as an intern, focusing on right to food for fishermen, Dalits and minority groups.

²³⁴ Several partners conveyed that they would like AHRC to organize more trainings on human rights, strategies and Rule-of-Law; this is also raised in the Lahore survey and the PILER survey. Also specific training is asked for: training for human rights defenders, training for media reporters, training for free legal aid volunteers.

PILER staff respond that they very much appreciate the partnership with AHRC. They qualify the partnership as “highly effective” as it has “benefited our work on Labour rights and Minority rights in Pakistan”: “having an international agency at back matters”; “international support helps raising local voices”; they welcome the initiative to “set up an Urgent Appeals desk at PILER” as “Urgent Appeals are useful, quick response, also on labour rights, minority rights”; “AHRC is in a position to highlight violations of rights of labourers of Pakistan at international level”, and AHRC’s media contacts are very useful.

Recommendations from PILER staff:

Set up local complaints desks, local cells of trained people, pro-active identification of cases, increase coverage, trouble-free access to justice, use Urgent Appeals to support cases, regularize the AHRC internship program with PILER on at least annual basis to strengthen Urgent Appeal desk at PILER, human rights training for specific groups. ‘Masses’ need training and awareness raising. “AHRC has been doing a wonderful job by exposing cases of injustice, but how do the masses get access to this information?”

Conclusion on AHRC partner network in Pakistan

Summarizing, a major outcome of the Pakistan country programme of AHRC in the period 2010-2012 is: AHRC’s contribution to a strong partner network in Pakistan capable of taking effective action on Human Rights issues and institutional reform and on protection of survivors of Human Rights Violations and Human Rights defenders.

The strength of the network is evident from its *effectiveness*, its *coverage*, in terms of diversity and relevance. The network also draws its strength from its *leverage* - the connections it has with prominent human rights actors and change agents in Pakistan. Finally, *solidity: capacity building*, it is found, is a strong building block for a *solid network*. The partnership with AHRC is immensely *appreciated* by all partners in Pakistan, without exception – as is expressed to the evaluator during her field visit and quoted here in detail.

What does AHRC mean to partners? A lot:

- A voice from outside makes a difference: Urgent Appeals, the ‘moral authority’ factor,
- A critical non-party-affiliated stand (vis-à-vis the government),
- Individual support and protection, cases brought to a higher level, pressure built up,
- Inspiration and encouragement to activists and survivors,
- Inputs on legal and institutional reform, Rule-of-Law discourse,
- Contribution to a strategic perspective on human rights in Pakistan.

A common feature that is appreciated in the network and the partnership is its complementarity: the added value of linking Pakistani grassroots organisations with AHRC as a regional organisation. It is effective. It adds to outcome. It can, of course, be *attributed* to AHRC and its partners.

2: Urgent Appeals, internet network, contributing to effective action

Effective internet network on HRV, strong Urgent Appeal mechanism, contributing to effective action

The Pakistan desk is pro-actively documenting and taking up the grass roots cases; it has established a large internet network and a strong Urgent Appeals mechanism.²³⁷ Pakistan has the largest number of email list subscribers within AHRC²³⁸ - 2850. The Pakistan desk has produced a continuous flow of UAs, statements and articles²³⁹.

Response to Urgent Appeals has been high in Pakistan.

²³⁶Evaluation Survey, undertaken with PILER staff, Karachi, 5 June, 2012: Summary of Survey outcome.

²³⁷ See chapter 3.1 on Urgent Appeals

²³⁸ See chapter 4 on Communication and Information Technology

²³⁹ Baseer Naweed: Contribution of AHRC to promote and protect Human Rights in Pakistan. Document, presented to the evaluation mission. In the period 2010-2012 the desk produced UAs: 40-50 annually; Statements 50 annually; Articles 12.

- Of AHRC's top-10 blue buttons responses, 7 are on Pakistan²⁴⁰.
- A UA on the hate campaign against Ahmadiyas²⁴¹ ranks highest of all AHRC UAs with 5659 supporters having pressed the blue button.
- One of the Pakistani UA's was reproduced in social network Reddit and for hours figured on its front page; this caused an exponential increase of viewers and as a result of this AHRC had the most remarkable peak in its website history.

Urgent Appeals in Pakistan have been *effective* in bringing about support for the victims. Authorities have taken action in response to Urgent Appeals – in 3 cases the Prime Minister Secretariat ordered an inquiry which set in motion a legal process which contributed to the release of the victims²⁴². This outcome has been very much acknowledged by the victims²⁴³. In other occasions the AHRC intervention led to legal redress for victims, arrest of perpetrators or actions against perpetrators. Urgent Appeals have been a factor in combination with advocacy from civil society groups, pressure by media, and international pressure.

Urgent Appeals are *acknowledged* as providing support and protection and highly respected by victims. This was evident during evaluation meetings with victims from Lahore, Karachi and Balochistan. It was expressed by Ashraf Khan (quoted in Ch. 3.1) – see below:

Ashraf Khan, journalist, leader of the Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists, and involved indrafting the first Pakistani Bill on Torture.
 “Do you regard the Urgent Appeals as helpful?”
 “Yes! I am a direct beneficiary. I was working for Associated Press. I was threatened by Taliban. Associated Press provided only temporary support, they suggested to relocate me outside Pakistan. When AHRC issued an Urgent Appeal the international editor changed his attitude and was ready to provide me more support ...”

The UAs are also highly respected by journalists as a source of information and a guide to analysis of cases pertaining to HRV and Rule of Law (see Ashraf Khan, quoted in Ch 3.1)

Ashraf Khan, Journalist and leader of the Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists
 “The UA is very useful, the tone is fine, it is not too sharp, it provides us the lead to the issue, and the level of verification is fine, it can be used for further investigation.”

So:

1. high production of Urgent Appeals
2. widely disseminated through a large internet network
3. addressing cases of HRV and systemic problems
4. with high response (blue button)
5. contributing to effective action
6. and as such acknowledged by victims.

²⁴⁰ See Annex: UA ORS support and response statistics as of May 2012

²⁴¹ In a hate campaign against Ahmadis the police tortured to death an innocent school teacher, April 3, 2012, UAC-057-2012

²⁴² Oral communication by Baseer Naweed, Jun 2012. Actions documented in: Baseer Naweed: Contribution of AHRC to promote and protect Human Rights in Pakistan. Document, presented to the evaluation mission. On one occasion the AHRC document was used in the process.

²⁴³ Six power loom workers detained, tortured and tried in anti-Terrorism court for formation of trade union. UAC-050-2012. See letter by Nasir Mansoor, NTUF (National Trade Union Federation) to AHRC dated 10.5.2012 thanking AHRC for its action.

3: Anti-Torture Alliance

Torture prevention, Human Rights, support to Human Rights Defenders, working with victims

AHRC's anti-torture interventions in Pakistan typically involve a range of activities:

- documenting the case
- mobilization and pressure (UA)
- working with victims, giving moral support, supporting them in documenting their case, protection
- public discourse (media, national and international)
- network organizing, coalition building
- Human Rights school (Folkschool) on torture, Seminars and Trainings
- Inputs in trainings, conferences, campaigns organized by others
- legal action, creating remedies, court intervention, fighting impunity
- promoting anti-torture legislation
- promoting judicial reform
- international alerts
- analysis and research,
- publications.

Pakistan: movement against torture?

Torture in Pakistan has been called a “hegemony of wilderness”²⁴⁴ where impunity prevails. In June 2011 AHRC organized a seminar with journalists, human rights groups and bar associations in Karachi presided by the Chief Justice of the Provincial high Court; it was concluded to organize a strong move against torture. The AHRC Pakistan desk jointly with partners drafted the anti-Torture law²⁴⁵; retired judges took up the task of presenting the bill to Parliament. This was the first time torture was raised in the Human Rights movement in the country. After the Asian Alliance against Torture and Ill-treatment (AAATI) was launched (July 2011) Pakistani partners responded by forming a Pakistani Chapter with 25 organisations under the banner of Anti Torture Alliance (ATA). ATA organised seminars, Folkschools, consultations and focal group discussions against torture and created a network of anti-torture partners all over the country including human rights activists, lawyers and judges, journalists, minority groups, and academics²⁴⁶.

This evaluation mission met with torture survivors and some 30 representatives of the anti-torture campaign in Pakistan. It is concluded that:

- The scale of torture in Pakistani society can hardly be underestimated.
- Torture in Pakistan is inflicted on persons in all echelons of society, and impunity prevails. Human rights defenders, leaders of the lawyers movement are torture survivors, as well as the sitting president. The majority of torture victims are helpless people in remote areas.

244 President Zardari has been qualified ‘helpless’ when the alleged perpetrator of torture on himself was appointed as the prosecutor general of Punjab Province. AHRC Special Report June 26, 2010
http://www.google.nl/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=1&ved=0CFQQFjAA&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.humanrights.asia%2Fresources%2Fspecial-reports%2FAHRC-SPR-001-2010-01%2Fat_download%2Ffile&ei=iJbT8eUNcOw0QWw16HIDw&usg=AFQjCNHjoUEJ0hAZqueBcDlaS8fdRhIOmA&sig2=BSuuhYs7tqINHAAfKwB-pQ

245 jointly with Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists and Karachi Bar Association.

246 AHRC Work Report 2011 p 143; Briefing paper for the Evaluation, unpublished, June 2012, p 3.

- AHRC has managed to create a powerful network of advocates against torture, including experts, professionals, human rights groups, torture survivors.
- There may be a potential for a ‘movement against torture’.

Landmarks in the Pakistan anti-torture campaign – since 2010

Earlier actions involve the 2008 study/publication on 52 illegal torture/detention centres²⁴⁷.

- June 2011: seminar in Karachi presided by Chief Justice of the Provincial High Court
- July 2011: AAATI – Asian Alliance against Torture
- 2012: AHRC issued a special report documenting Torture²⁴⁸.
- **Anti torture bill drafted by AHRC,**
- Folkschool (2: 1 in Lahore, 1 in Karachi, and follow up meeting Karachi)
- Seminars organized by AHRC jointly with Karachi Fed. of Journalists and Karachi Bar Ass.
- Urgent Appeals on torture
- Demonstrations, campaigns, posters, articles
- Written and oral submissions to the High Court
- Intervention to the Special Rapporteur
- **Anti Torture Alliance (ATA)**, consisting of 25 organisations working on working HR, women’s rights, children’s rights, lawyers movement, trade unions and organisations working on extrajudicial killings and disappearances. Covering the entire country - Sindh, Balochistan, Punjab; and Khyber and Pakhtunkhan.

Outcome:

- Anti-Torture Bill
- Anti-Torture Coalition
- Strengthening of the public discourse, as evidenced by:
 - o More HRV issues are covered by media and analysis is included deepened
 - o Many organisations are taking interest
 - o Funding organisations are interested giving funds (OXFAM)
 - o Increase of media attention; Effective and efficient channels for communication have been developed (as soon as something happens this is covered immediately)
- Focus on legal reform, reform of the court system, judicial system, police
 - o Former Chief Justice Nasir, dean of Hamdard university, came to AHRC Rule of Law meeting, then he organised a 4-days conference on the criminal justice system which was attended by the persons from the AHRC network but also from representatives of SAARC countries and Pakistani judges. Torture was one of the issues highlighted in the conference.
- Comfort and empowerment among victims, as expressed during meetings in Lahore and Karachi,
- Victims presenting their cases in the meeting are extremely well documented and capable of telling their story – this they reportedly ‘learned’ from AHRC,

This has features of a movement anti torture.

Movement against Torture in Pakistan

The narrative of the Movement against Torture has all the ‘ingredients’ for documenting outcome.

- indicators,
- attribution, without claiming, and while giving full credit to the local actors, people on the ground
- it covers outcome at individual and collective level and it may have features of the level of critical mass
- partnership strategy and different levels of partnerships
- documenting the impact of the Capacity Building strategy
- integrating gender issues (Violence against Women) and women’s participation

²⁴⁷ <http://www.humanrights.asia/news/ahrc-news/AHRC-STM-158-2008>

²⁴⁸ AHRC: Hegemony of Wilderness, Torture situation in Pakistan, AHRC Special Report, AHRC-SPR-001-2010.

- highlighting poverty issues
- connections to other programmes like Right to Food
- use of other methods like publications
- availability of video recordings
- diversity in the movement, religious minorities
- action at an international level (disappearances)
- Likelihood of sustainability and impact

Torture Victims acknowledging support by AHRC

Victims acknowledge the support by AHRC and express gratitude to AHRC

In Lahore the evaluator recorded a statement by **Shafiq Dogar and Rifat Rani** by video recording.

“I am alive tanks to Baseer, AHRC. The media were not supporting us. AHRC has given us life. I want to make that clear. That – that I am here.”

Shafiq Dogar and Rifat Rani had traveled long distances to convey this message.

Sadaqat Sardar, from Christian minority, expressed his gratitude to AHRC and Baseer, for the support given to him and the Urgent Appeal issued. Sadaqat presents a very beautiful story on peace building in his community.

In **the surveys** undertaken by the evaluation in Lahore participants express their gratitude to AHRC.

Imran Usman, kidnapped, Trade Union activist, Karachi, heavily tortured:

He wants to convey that he is very grateful to AHRC “for our chief justice did not give me relief but AHRC through their Urgent Appeal provided me the relief that I am alive and present in this meeting today...”

Abi Zaidi, Human Rights activist, heavily tortured, working at the University of Karachi as a coral expert, Shi’a, conveys that he is grateful to AHRC. “When my family contacted AHRC in no time there was an Urgent Appeal”. Abi Zaidi sees this as a major factor protecting him from further torture.

4. International advocacy

International advocacy is an important part of the ‘package’ of AHRC interventions on Human Rights in Pakistan.

The Pakistan desk mentions several instances of results of is international work²⁴⁹.

An example of ‘measurable’ outcome is the UPR report.

Pakistan was reviewed by the UN UPR Working Group on in 2012 for the first time.

An example of international advocacy is the report submitted jointly by ALRC and French NGO ACAT for the Pakistan UPR review, May 2012.

The procedure is that OHCHR prepares a report based on the input of all civil society reports submitted. Being quoted in the final OHCHR report is an indicator of success of submitting a report is. Key issues in the shadow report being included in the OHCHR report is another instance of success. So, the outcome of ALRC’s advocacy can be measured quantitatively, in terms of the number of times the ALRC-ACAT report is cited, and qualitatively, with an assessment of whether key issues have been taken up.

Having an effect on the content of the OHCHR report is a first step. The UPR is a state-led process, and the OHCHR report serves as a background document, so to influence the outcome of the UPR one

249 including the contribution to the US State Department Human Rights reports, quoting AHRC, and the report of the Special rapporteur on Torture mentions the cases highlighted by AHRC (not naming AHRC).

2011-Human Rights Report-USA <http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/index.htm#wrapper>

2010-Human Rights Report-USA <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/160472.pdf>

2009-Human Rights Report-USA <http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/2009/sca/136092.htm>

must ensure that key issues are included in the actual review and questions by other states. This is an opportunity to lobby other states concerning Pakistan's human rights record. Ultimately, it is imperative to develop the capacity to influence states.

ALRC and ACAT produced a strong report. Joint reports involving ALRC as a regional NGO plus a National level NGO seem to have most impact²⁵⁰. It is too early to say how many times the joint ALRC-ACAT report is cited in the OHCHR summary report and whether key issues have indeed been included, as the OHCHR has not yet compiled its stakeholders report.

Violence against Women, Gender equality

The Pakistan desk takes a proactive stand on gender equality and violence against women. The desk is collaboration with Pakistani women's organisations and civil society organisations (like Aurat) and provides an enabling environment for women leaders. The desk takes up many cases of violence against women, has been involved in the passing of the bill on Violence against Women (Baseer: "the bill on VAW is also part of AHRC impact"), and issues publications on VAW²⁵¹.

The Pakistan desk and AHRC's overall outcome indicators

Summarizing: AHRC's outcome on Pakistan

- There is clear outcome
- As evidenced by different indicators, quantitative and qualitative
- Including strong victim/partner perspective indicators
- There is evidence that this outcome is to be partly attributed to AHRC and partners
- There is likeliness of impact

Finally, a concluding remark in view of AHRC's *overall* outcome indicators. Overlooking the previous paragraphs on the outcome generated by the Pakistan desk, one may conclude that the Pakistan desk has made a considerable contribution to AHRC's overall outcome in the years 2010-2012. The effective internet network in Pakistan and the proactive use of the Urgent Appeals mechanism, the partner network, the campaigns, the anti-torture coalition, the publications: they all contributed to AHRC's overall outcome indicators. In summary:

1. victims of human rights violations have received more local/international support for seeking redress on their cases, partly as a result of AHRC Urgent Appeals in Pakistan²⁵².
2. In-depth knowledge on HRV case documentation and institutional root causes generated and widely disseminated.
3. Systemic problems like Rule of law and criminal justice system become key topics of public discourse²⁵³.
4. National human rights movements become more involved in working towards systemic reform of justice institutions.
5. Increase of international attention (international human rights networks, UN human rights mechanisms) for human rights and institutional reforms in Asia.
6. Asian governments become more responsive human rights issues raised by AHRC.

²⁵⁰ See footnote under "Expected Outcome 2" for analysis of qualitative outcome.

²⁵¹ Baseer Naweed, Violence against Women in Pakistan, in Ethics in Action vol 5 nr 6, December 2011. See also AHRC/ALRC Work Report 2011 p 233

²⁵² Documented in Actions documented in: Baseer Naweed: Contribution of AHRC to promote and protect Human Rights in Pakistan. Document, presented to the evaluation mission, p 4-7

²⁵³ for example a Conference on the Criminal Justice system, Karachi, by AHRC partner Justice Nasir Aslam, Hamdard University, who had attended AHRC meetings on criminal justice.

Recommendations

In view of the strength of the partners network in mobilizing local human rights defenders and the level of conflict in the country the Pakistan desk may require additional capacity, in Hong Kong as well as in-country. This is also an expressed need of the partners in Pakistan.

Recommendations from participants and surveys supported by the evaluator:

- Increase of grassroots partnerships
- Paralegal trainings in cooperation with CBOs – lowest level
- More support and protection for victims – as asked in meetings
- Address Capacity Building needs of our partner organisations (recommended by Bushra Khaliq)
- Training on Rule of Law - requested by partners
- Separate training for the anti torture campaign, specially on torture and torture prevention, including on trauma-counseling – requested by victims / partners

Recommendations by Munir Malik:

- Launch the annual report by local partners in big cities inviting prominent persons,
- Create a country representative of AHRC in Pakistan, who is on the board of AHRC
- Visibility of credible persons within/backing AHRC, make the list of people backing AHRC visible at your website and elsewhere,
- Create partnerships with law offices like Rasheed Razvi Sahab, Munir Malik and create a MoU, raising critical issues,
- Po-active action including legal assistance,
- Need for the creation of a coalition of international solidarity.

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9. Annex: Statements of partners and victims

Annex: William Nicholas Gomez, Bangladesh

William, Bangladesh:

“After being abducted and tortured, I was fully broken. I was afraid, I was lost, I was lost fully, I was not able to think, what to do, where to go and both mentally and physically, I was fully broken. That was a very crucial part in the life that I have faced. I had experience to help the victims but I never been a victim. The very moment the AHRC Bangladesh desk, specially Mr. Zaman, stood by my side. He talked with me and listen me that was not the end, he said AHRC will do all the possible things to save my life. That was what I was in need that time. AHRC was amazingly prompt in doing that. I am very much helped by the victim support that AHRC has given me at the time of need. As a law student, I have gone through many international covenant and treaties but without such people and the service of AHRC, I would never be able to understand the theory in reality. AHRC has brought the theory in practice and what I have experienced verily.

(..)

More than that Mr.Zaman was on my side via internet and phone 24/7.

His support was like a friend and brother and family.

Mr.Bijo was ready to listen to me and overall Mr.Basil Fernando was a big friend to me.

The victim support that I got from AHRC is unique. It is my journey to understand the Human rights from my own experience. And I have learnt how important and great the human rights are. I have more respect and more understanding, in terms to stand firm and fight against torture within the understanding of CAT and with my own experience and leanings.

(..)

When I arrived in Hong Hong , I was welcomed by the people in AHRC. I was very much touched by that. (I was given a 6 months fellowship).

(..)

This is a glimpse of what I got from AHRC.It will take 100 of pages to write my experience with AHRC”.²⁵⁴

²⁵⁴ Letter by William, Bangladesh. William intends to write a book on his experience being tortured and on the support of AHRC - in the Centre for Applied Human Rights on the University of York – the application has been supported by Zaman, AHRC. Also: Interview with William, June 2012, Hong Kong.

Annex: Florence Dom-an Macagne, Luzon, Philippines

Dom-an Florence Macagne (Florence Manegdeg) – Philippines on the impact of AHRC

Florence sees her participation in the Folkschool as a Space that allowed her to move on beyond the 'box' of victimhood, to being a survivor, a victor, healing herself and others²⁵⁵.

In 2008, 3 years after the killing of my husband, I heard about AHRC, so I searched the internet ...At that time everything seemed senseless ...there was a culture of violence.... but the moment I heard that my husband was killed I knew there is something more, something larger ... it was an inner process....Most NGOs were products of martial law and they replicated the culture of martial law. The ghosts of martial law were still haunting them. I was trying to communicate that we have to bring it to another level. I asked Human Rights groups to not put up posters of my husband's killing, with his body soaked in blood...I did not want to be a poster, a symbolic personality ...This created a rage as they thought I am crazy... So in the context it was *war*.

I needed a synthesis as well as analysis. Then AHRC issued an Urgent Appeal and that set in motion a legal process.... Then they invited me to their Folkschool.

When AHRC came ... It was Space. It was out of the box. It helped me to go beyond the framework of being a victim - it helped me to reclaim my voice. It helped me to make a transition from being a victim to being a survivor to being a victor.

It was only a week, in Hong Kong, but it made so much difference!

The Folkschool was... meeting other victims, meeting human rights defenders... it was dynamic exchange, it was a learning process²⁵⁶: telling the story of human rights violations, but also how to survive and how to move on after survival. I picked up the 'perpetuation of victimhood'. Very subtle lessons.

How can we be a Human Rights advocate without violating that very fragile space that allows us to transcend the pain....Even by telling our stories we are passing on the pain...In order to effectively contribute to a humanizing more humanized society we need to tell the story in a way that cuts the de-humanizing thread.

That is how the participation in the Folkschool influenced me. It was a profound experience. That is why I am playing the noseflute in public spaces, because the sacred breath is something that you and I share ... it is something the perpetrator and I both share actually.

My participation in Folkschool set in motion a process of being part of a platform to speak out as a widow and at the same time as a human rights defender. I am very grateful for that opportunity. I want to say this, I wanted to participate in this evaluation. **AHRC did so much more than just assisting a victim, so much more that just invite me to the Folkschool.**

The killing itself was hurting. Then the things that followed. The betrayal. The loss of trust. The effort not to be hopeless. Not to be cynical and skeptical. Giving justice to ourselves. Asserting our own existence. The killing has become bigger than life itself. That was part of death, giving so much energy to the killing. The killer even has violated and desecrated his own self.

The reality that I am here – is also part of the continuing impact. I continue to monitor the case of my belated husband as an example of the drama of human rights violations .. but now I am creating a

²⁵⁵ Interview with Dom-an Florence Macagne (Florence Manegdeg), from Luzon, in Manila, 30-31 May 2012.
²⁵⁶She is quoting Bijo: "Can we unite on Asian human rights?"

space for others to heal themselves²⁵⁷.... It would be a continuing human rights violation to stop with just the victim box, it is a self-perpetuating process, a vicious circle, actually the most damaging impact of the killing is the long-term effect upon us, the perpetuation of victimhood... The most important impact...? Space. AHRC provided a great space to move on. Space to move beyond the box of victim-consciousness. Transcend the pain. Healing, ourselves and others.

²⁵⁷ Florence is now engaged in creating a “Peace and Healing Sanctuary for families affected by armed conflict” in Luzon.

10. Annex: Evaluation documents

Annex: Urgent Appeals ORS support and response statistics as of May 201

5/29/12

SQL result - phpMyAdmin 3.2.5

SQL result

Host: localhost

Database: ahrchk_ua_mailing

Generation Time: May 29, 2012 at 04:22 AM

Generated by: phpMyAdmin 3.2.5 / MySQL 5.0.84

SQL query: SELECT `ahrc_id`, `subject`, `sent` FROM `uas` ORDER BY `sent` DESC LIMIT 0, 100 ;

Rows: 100

ahrc_id	subject	sent
AHRC-UAC-057-2012	PAKISTAN: In a hate campaign against the Ahmadis t...	5659
UAC-167-2008	PAKISTAN/USA: A lady doctor is missing with her th...	2435
UAC-182-2010	PAKISTAN/THAILAND: Immigration Police detain babie...	2028
UAU-049-2008-1	PAKISTAN/USA: Dr. Aafia Siddiqui should be pardone...	1633
AHRC-UAC-063-2012	INDONESIA: An atheist on trial for religious defam...	1542
UAC-203-2008	PAKISTAN: Two persons murdered after an anchor per...	1380
UAC-182-2008	PAKISTAN: Five women buried alive, allegedly by th...	945
UAC-111-2008	SRI LANKA: Please investigate the case of rape of...	663
UAC-124-2010	SRI LANKA: Special Task Force (STF) of Sri Lanka P...	575
AHRC-UAC-199-2011	PAKISTAN: A 12 year-old Christian is gang raped fo...	421
UAU-049-2008	PAKISTAN/USA: Dr. Aafia's health is in a serious co...	376
UAC-045-2009	PAKISTAN: Government of Punjab kept four teenagers...	340
UA-207-2007	SAUDI ARABIA/SRI LANKA: Death sentence to young gi...	334
UAU-010-2011	THAILAND/PAKISTAN: Another 24 Ahmadiya Pakistani a...	322
UAU-003-2010	PHILIPPINES: Two torture victims rearrested with 4...	318
UAC-001-2011	INDIA: The concocted case registered against the j...	304
UAC-006-2011	BANGLADESH: Labour rights activist must be release...	270
UAC-122-2009	INDIA: Please ensure the safety of detained human ...	257
UAC-033-2010	NEPAL: The killing of three Dalit women must be in...	248
UAC-033-2010	MALAYSIA: A human rights lawyer and public interes...	248
UAC-164-2008	PAKISTAN: A girl was raped in private custody by p...	233
UAC-161-2009	PAKISTAN: A university vice chancellor is abducted...	229
AHRC-UAC-042-2012	PAKISTAN: The failure of the judicial system -- an...	215
UAC-070-2010	PAKISTAN: A couple is death marked by a jirga cour...	209
UAC-042-2011	BANGLADESH: Right to freedom of religion and publi...	208
AHRC-UAC-085-2011	PAKISTAN: A Christian woman was raped for four day...	200
UAC-041-2009	PAKISTAN: Three political activists are found murd...	197

ahrchk.humanrights.asia/myadmin/sql.php?db=ahrchk_ua_mailing&table=uas&printview=1&sql_query=...

1/4

Annex:International Advocacy - Quantitative Outcome Assessment

International Advocacy - Quantitative Outcome Assessment: UPR/OHCHR Report

The International Advocacy Desk refers to the UPR mechanisms as an example of how ALRC may quantify the extent to which its input is assisting the UN system in becoming more responsive to priority issues in Asia.

The desk made a quantitative assessment of the number of times the ALRC report was cited in the OHCHR report²⁵⁸.

The list of scores and references is given below.

For analysis and relation to qualitative assessment see the paragraph on International Advocacy.

Bangladesh -

http://lib.ohchr.org/HRBodies/UPR/Documents/Session4/BD/A_HRC_WG6_4_BGD_3_E.PDF

The ALRC's report was cited 6 times in the OHCHR report.

Cambodia, as part of a large coalition of mainly national NGOs -

http://lib.ohchr.org/HRBodies/UPR/Documents/Session6/KH/A_HRC_WG6_6_KHM_3_E.pdf

The ALRC's joint report was cited 21 times

India First cycle - <http://daccess-ods.un.org/TMP/1963038.74254227.html>

The ALRC's report was cited 3 times

Second cycle – [http://daccess-dds-](http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G12/118/60/PDF/G1211860.pdf?OpenElement)

[ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G12/118/60/PDF/G1211860.pdf?OpenElement](http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G12/118/60/PDF/G1211860.pdf?OpenElement)

The ALRC's report was cited 9 times

Indonesia First cycle – [http://daccess-dds-](http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G08/113/95/PDF/G0811395.pdf?OpenElement)

[ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G08/113/95/PDF/G0811395.pdf?OpenElement](http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G08/113/95/PDF/G0811395.pdf?OpenElement)

The ALRC's report was cited 10 times

Second cycle (jointly with KontraS – [http://daccess-dds-](http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G12/118/12/PDF/G1211812.pdf?OpenElement)

[ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G12/118/12/PDF/G1211812.pdf?OpenElement](http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G12/118/12/PDF/G1211812.pdf?OpenElement)

The ALRC's report was cited 26 times

Myanmar - [http://daccess-dds-](http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G10/169/86/PDF/G1016986.pdf?OpenElement)

[ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G10/169/86/PDF/G1016986.pdf?OpenElement](http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G10/169/86/PDF/G1016986.pdf?OpenElement)

Mentioned 5 times

Nepal (Jointly with Advocacy Forum) - [http://daccess-dds-](http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G10/165/27/PDF/G1016527.pdf?OpenElement)

[ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G10/165/27/PDF/G1016527.pdf?OpenElement](http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G10/165/27/PDF/G1016527.pdf?OpenElement)

Mentioned 15 times

Pakistan - [http://daccess-dds-](http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G08/128/08/PDF/G0812808.pdf?OpenElement)

[ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G08/128/08/PDF/G0812808.pdf?OpenElement](http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G08/128/08/PDF/G0812808.pdf?OpenElement)

Mentioned 12 times

(As is also the case with Sri Lanka, the second cycle report has been submitted to the UN, but the OHCHR has not compiled its stakeholders report yet).

Philippines First cycle - [http://daccess-dds-](http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G08/115/72/PDF/G0811572.pdf?OpenElement)

[ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G08/115/72/PDF/G0811572.pdf?OpenElement](http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G08/115/72/PDF/G0811572.pdf?OpenElement)

Mentioned 5 times

Second cycle – [http://daccess-](http://daccess-ddsny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G12/119/16/PDF/G1211916.pdf?OpenElement)

[ddsny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G12/119/16/PDF/G1211916.pdf?OpenElement](http://daccess-ddsny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G12/119/16/PDF/G1211916.pdf?OpenElement)

Mentioned 9 times

Sri Lanka – [http://daccess-dds-](http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G08/127/09/PDF/G0812709.pdf?OpenElement)

[ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G08/127/09/PDF/G0812709.pdf?OpenElement](http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G08/127/09/PDF/G0812709.pdf?OpenElement)

Mentioned 5 times

²⁵⁸ Michael Anthony, Asia – Europe Dialogue Programme input concerning the Outcome Assessment Framework Document, unpublished, June 2012, page 6.

Thailand –

http://lib.ohchr.org/HRBodies/UPR/Documents/session12/TH/A_HRC_WG.6_12_THA_3_Thailand_E.doc

Mentioned 5 times

11. Annex: Team Building Project

Team building exercise

Preliminary outline – Bijo Francis, Rajat Mitra, Welmoed Koekebakker – June 2012

To organize a teambuilding exercise - as part of an ongoing process - covering 3 related objectives: individual growth, strengthening the team, and ‘space’ for transformation.

1. To strengthen team identity
 - a. To identify strengths and weaknesses of the individuals who build the organization
 - b. And help them to improve on strength and reduce weakness
 - c. To bring in the dynamics of individuals to create collective / team identity

2. To strengthen individual transformation:
 - a. How do you make the transformation, the evolution, from where you were to portray your cause through the organization?
 - b. How do you graduate to make presentations, speak up for your cause?
 - c. From being a crusader to being someone who can speak in a language the audience can understand?

3. Dynamics between team and individual
 - a. The present organizational ‘culture’ has elements of strength, warmth, respect, celebration, good food, mutual support, bonding, empowerment, growth, inclusion, care,
 - b. But there are also instances of fear, hurt, belittling/feeling denied, aggression, exclusion,
 - c. The latter may reflect an internalization, petrification of repressive experiences ‘at home’
 - d. Hong Kong may be ‘space’
 - e. There is a window, an opportunity to bring out the individuality everyone has; strength and weaknesses can be changed, creative *space* can be created.
 - f. If you grow stronger individually you can also grow stronger as a team.

12. Outcome assessment – Indonesia Desk

Outcome Assessment – Indonesia desk

Expected outcomes

1. Victims of human rights violations have received more local and international support for seeking redress on their cases;
2. Generation of in-depth knowledge and documentation of cases regarding the institutional problems relating to human rights violations in Indonesia, disseminated widely to local and global audiences;
3. Increase of attention and support of international human rights networks and UN human rights mechanisms on human rights issues and international reforms in Indonesia;
4. Establish and strengthen partnership with local human rights organisations and activists in Indonesia.

SELECTED ACTIVITIES

Activity 1 - Intervention to Alexander Aan's case

Alexander Aan who declared himself to be an atheist on Facebook was tried for religious blasphemy and disseminating atheism. The AHRC intervened in two ways: 1) publishing an urgent appeal and 2) submitting an amicus curiae brief to the Muaro Sijunjung District Court.

Outcome and indicators – Victims of human rights violations have received more local and international support for seeking redress on their cases as evidenced by the following indicators:

- (1) The urgent appeal published by the AHRC in Alexander Aan's case was signed by over 1500 people, made it as one of most signed urgent appeals of the AHRC. The urgent appeal had also been reproduced in many other websites and cited by other organisations²⁵⁹.
- (2) According to Alexander Aan's lawyer, the amicus curiae brief submitted to the court was helpful because one of their defence arguments was that what Alex has done was only an expression of his belief but there were no other supporting documents or testimonies from credible parties.

Attribution – Alexander Aan was recently sentenced to 2 and a half years imprisonment and fined for more than USD 10,000. Copy of the judgment is still not available so it is difficult to assess the attribution of AHRC works in this case. Although the submission of the amicus did not lead to the acquittal of Alexander Aan, it provides a new perspective for the judges in the cases and it can be cited or used by others.

Activity 2 -HKBP Filadelfia case

Documentation on the threat and intimidation towards the congregation of HKBP Filadelfia (a Christian Batak church in Bekasi) that stop them from conducting service of worship. The outputs of the documentation are: 1) urgent appeal²⁶⁰; 2) open letter to the new regent of Bekasi²⁶¹; and 3) an interview with Reverend Palti Panjaitan²⁶², the leader of the congregation.

Outcome and indicators – Victims of human rights violations have received more local and international support for seeking redress on their cases and they have felt morally supported. This is evidenced by the statement from Reverend Palti Panjaitan expressing his gratitude for the works of AHRC in this case as well as by the fact that the Reverend keeps updating AHRC with the

²⁵⁹See, for instance, <http://humanistfederation.eu/protest-to-indonesia-over-prosecution-of-atheist/http://www.christianpost.com/news/atheist-faces-jail-time-threats-of-beheading-for-indonesian-facebook-post-73462/>.

²⁶⁰Published on <http://www.humanrights.asia/news/urgent-appeals/AHRC-UAC-087-2012>, 25 May 2012.

²⁶¹Available on <http://www.humanrights.asia/news/ahrc-news/AHRC-OLT-009-2012>, published on 21 May 2012.

²⁶²Available on <http://www.humanrights.asia/opinions/interviews/AHRC-ETC-015-2012>, published 28 May 2012

development of the case. Furthermore, whereas this case has been well documented in Bahasa Indonesia, there has been no such documentation in English.

The open letter sent by the AHRC to the new regent of Bekasi was cited and covered by various media, including the Jakarta Globe²⁶³ and Media Indonesia²⁶⁴.

Attribution – The outcome can be partially attributed to AHRC and its partners; the case was covered by other organisations and victims had received local support already when the AHRC started its support.

Activity 3 - UN UPR Advocacy 2012

Indonesia was reviewed by the UN UPR Working Group on 23 May 2012. Through its sister organisation, The Asian Legal Resource Centre, AHRC Indonesia Desk submitted two relevant stakeholder reports (shadow reports). One submission was regarding human rights situation in Indonesia in general which was submitted together with KontraS²⁶⁵; whereas the other one specifically discusses the human rights situation in Papua²⁶⁶. The latter submission was jointly lodged with Fransiscans International and Faith Based Network on West Papua.

In addition to submitting stakeholder reports, AHRC also sent letters to several country representatives in Jakarta and Geneva asking their government to raise various human rights issues in Indonesia. Those countries are: Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, South Korea, Netherlands, New Zealand, Sweden, United Kingdom and United States. In these letters, AHRC provided the state representatives with specific recommendations which were aimed at to be mentioned by them during the UPR session.

After the UPR Session, AHRC published a press release expressing its concern regarding the denial of the Indonesian government during the UPR Session on human rights violations in Indonesia.

Outcome and indicators – AHRC/ALRC contributed to two outcomes:

- (1) Generation of in-depth knowledge and documentation of cases regarding the institutional problems relating to human rights violations in Indonesia, disseminated widely to local and global audiences;
- (2) Increase of attention and support of international human rights networks and UN human rights mechanisms on human rights issues and institutional reforms in Indonesia.

Attribution:

- (1) The summary of stakeholders' information compiled by the UN UPR Working Group referred 26 times to the reports submitted by the AHRC/ALRC²⁶⁷. AHRC/ALRC report is the most referred joint report in the summary by the Working Group²⁶⁸.

²⁶³See 'Human Rights Group Calls on Bekasi District Chief to Protect Filadelfia Church', published on 22 May 2012, available on <http://www.thejakartaglobe.com/home/human-rights-group-calls-on-bekasi-district-chief-to-protect-filadelfia-church/519377>.

²⁶⁴See 'Komisi HAM Asia Kirim Surat Terbuka ke Bupati Bekasi', published on 22 May 2012, available on <http://www.mediaindonesia.com/read/2012/05/22/321239/38/5/Komisi-HAM-Asia-Kirim-Surat-Terbuka-ke-Bupati-Bekasi>. In addition, The English version of the open letter was tweeted 17 times on Twitter whereas the Indonesian version of it was tweeted 8 times. The number of responses was relatively low because the Open Letter was the first material AHRC Indonesia Desk posted on its Twitter account, @ahrcindonesia, which was created on 21 May 2012. Twitter is used as a media to disseminate AHRC Indonesia desk publication as Indonesia is the country with the most Twitter users. AHRC Indonesia also has an official account on Facebook, AHRC Indonesia <https://www.facebook.com/pages/AHRC-Indonesia/354689414598108>, which as of 15 June 2012 has received 55 likes. Facebook recorded the link to the interview with Rev. Palti embedded on AHRC Indonesia's account was reached 29 times.

²⁶⁵Available on <http://www.alrc.net/PDF/ALRC-UPR-13-001-2011-Indonesia.pdf>.

²⁶⁶Available on <http://www.humanrights.asia/resources/special-reports/AHRC-SPR-002-2011/view>.

²⁶⁷The summary can be accessed on <http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G12/118/12/PDF/G1211812.pdf?OpenElement> or can be found on <http://ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/IDSession13.aspx> (please refer to the 'Summary of stakeholders' information' report).

- (2) The press release issued by the AHRC shortly after the UPR session received media coverage, including by Kompas, the biggest newspaper in Indonesia. The publication by Kompas received 662 likes on Facebook and was read by 45,199 people²⁶⁹.

The outcome met by the UPR advocacy on Indonesia, is partially attributable to the AHRC/ALRC and their partners such as KontraS and Fransiscan International; at least there is evidence that other actors found them valuable.

Activity 4 – Papua torture video

In October 2010, the AHRC received a video from a local activist in Papua which shows several military officers torture indigenous Papuans. Other organisations also received such video but the AHRC was the first organisation which published the video to public. The AHRC edited it so that the victims in the video cannot be recognised then uploaded it to Youtube on 17 October 2012 (later moved to Blip TV as Youtube had taken down the video because it contains violence)²⁷⁰. In addition, AHRC sent out an UA, sent a letter to President Obama on the eve of his visit to Indonesia²⁷¹, and set up a campaign page.²⁷²

Outcome and indicators – Increase of attention and support of international human rights networks and UN human rights mechanisms on violence by security forces in Papua, the problem of torture in Indonesia, and the problem of military accountability, as evidenced by extensive media coverage (newspaper, local and international TV stations, etc.) and verified by Meltwater news monitoring service data. Since the AHRC was the first which released the video, the outcome is largely attributable to the AHRC and its partners. The video and the successive media attention contributed to the national discourse on torture and human rights.

While the response of the Indonesian government was to downplay the case as an incident, AHRC and others emphasized the systemic aspect of torture as a reflection of the deficiency of the Rule of Law. For more details concerning the media coverage on this issue, please refer to the Annex with the case study from the Indonesia Desk Report in 2010²⁷³.

Outcome on the establishment and strengthening of partnership with local human rights organisations and activists in Indonesia

Local activities are routinely conducted jointly with partners. This joint work as evidenced by the activities listed above has strengthened and widened the partnership network.

- (1) Proactive and systematic search for new partners. The A newly created database lists all organisations in Indonesia which have concern on women rights. This database will be followed up with a series of interviews with the activists in these organisations;
- (2) Capacity building to grass root partners:
 - Regional folk school;
 - National folk school;
 - Internship programme.

²⁶⁸In addition to submit stakeholder's report to the UN UPR Working Group, AHRC/ALRC also sent letters to the states representatives in Jakarta and Geneva asking them to raise several specific human rights issues. In the letter to the Canadian representative, for instance, the AHRC/ALRC asked them to raise the issue on human rights defenders, Papua and impunity. All of these issues were mentioned by the government of Canada during the UPR session. In our letter to the French government, we called them to raise the issue regarding human rights defenders, Papua, torture and enforced disappearance. Apart from the enforced disappearance one, all the issues raised by the AHRC/ALRC in its letter were mentioned by the French government during the UPR session.

²⁶⁹ Kompas, 'Jawaban RI mengecewakan', available on

<http://internasional.kompas.com/read/2012/05/25/07531959/Jawaban.RI.Mengecewakan>

²⁷⁰Video available on <http://blip.tv/asian-human-rights-commission/indonesia-indonesian-military-tortures-indigenous-papuans-4340037>.

²⁷¹ <http://www.humanrights.asia/news/ahrc-news/AHRC-OLT-014-2010>

²⁷² <http://www.humanrights.asia/countries/indonesia/end-violence-in-west-papua>

²⁷³See Annex: Military Torture – A video with considerable impact - From: AHRC/ ALRC Work Report 2010, page 128/129. AHRC had the highest number of radio and television interviews in the following days in its history and the issue continue to dominate media in an outside Indonesia for several days.

This outcome has been met as evidenced by the following facts:

1. **Partnership network** – The AHRC has established partnership with at least 17 organisations and 7 independent activists in Papua. It has close partnership with various national/non-Papuan organisations, including KontraS, ELSAM, LBH Masyarakat, Imparsial, Jamaah Ahmadiyah Indonesia (JAI), KontraS Aceh and LBH Padang. The Indonesia desk is planning to develop and diversify its partnership with other organisations.
2. **Feedback from partners** – AHRC has received positive feedback from its various partners. Please refer, for instance, to the example given in the HKBP Filadelfia case as well as in the atheist (Alexander Aan) case.
3. **Joint activities** – AHRC has conducted various joint activities with its local partners, such as: Joint campaign on torture with JAPI (Indonesian Anti-Torture Network), joint submission on UPR 2012 with KontraS and documentation on massacre in Papua in 1977-1979 with JAPH&HAM. AHRC is currently preparing a joint amicus brief to be submitted to the Constitutional Court regarding death penalty under Article 365 (4) of the Penal Code along with ELSAM, Imparsial and LBH Masyarakat.

Activities to promote women’s right and other gender-related activities

There have been activities conducted by the Indonesia desk of the AHRC in relation to women’s rights and other gender issues. These include:

- WISE project (women’s international shared experience) - provides video advocacy training for poverty affected and marginalised women groups. The training includes campaigning strategies, filming techniques, editing and online advocacy. The organisations WISE project held such a workshop in Indonesia in August for 9 days. As part of the training the participants produced a video about their situation which is marked by prostitution and HIV²⁷⁴. For further details on this activity, please refer to <http://www.humanrights.asia/news/ahrc-news/AHRC-ART-083-2010/?searchterm=>.
- Publication of article on women – AHRC published an article written by one of its interns regarding women survivors in Indonesia. This article was published in Ethics in Action and accessible on <http://www.ethicsinaction.asia/archive/2011-ethics-in-action/vol.-5-no.-6-december-2011/more-than-just-victims-women-survivors-in>.
- Database on women’s rights organisations – AHRC has developed a database on organisations in Indonesia which are concerned with women’s issues. The establishment of this database will be followed up with interviews with those who work for the organisations to help us understand the issue on women rights better.
- Women’s perspective on torture – AHRC conducted interviews concerning torture with women in Asia. The Indonesia desk conducted 5 interviews²⁷⁵.

Annex:

Military Torture – A video with considerable impact - From: AHRC/ ALRC Work Report 2010

²⁷⁴Available on <http://bit.ly/aZN1hj> or <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iJKS-13BxIE>.

²⁷⁵Please refer to <http://www.humanrights.asia/news/ahrc-news/AHRC-STM-128-2010/?searchterm=>, <http://www.humanrights.asia/news/ahrc-news/AHRC-STM-110-2010/?searchterm=>, <http://www.humanrights.asia/news/ahrc-news/AHRC-STM-100-2010/?searchterm=>, <http://www.humanrights.asia/news/ahrc-news/AHRC-STM-110-2010/?searchterm=>, and <http://www.humanrights.asia/news/ahrc-news/AHRC-STM-105-2010/?searchterm=>.