

TYRANNY HAS A WITNESS

**HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH
ANNUAL REPORT**



A YEAR OF CHANGE

THE ARAB SPRING | 2011

HRW.org
Produced by Human Rights Watch
Michael J. Burlingame, Project Director

HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH'S ANNUAL REPORT 2011

is inclusive of the organization's work and reflective of its supporters from July 1, 2010 to December 31, 2011.

A crowd celebrates President Hosni Mubarak's resignation in Tahrir Square, Cairo, Egypt on February 11, 2011.

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DEAR FRIENDS,

The Arab Spring presented a once-in-a-generation opportunity for change in a region long known for its entrenched autocracies. As this annual report relates, Human Rights Watch jumped to seize these opportunities, generating intense international pressure to protect demonstrators and the public from arrests, beatings, and shootings by governments that savagely sought to maintain their grip on power.

Time and again, our researchers on the ground were a leading source of information about this repression, and our advocates in key global capitals played a central role in keeping up the pressure to end it.

As effective as Human Rights Watch was, these events also highlighted our staffing inadequacies. Our researchers for the Middle East and North Africa were often responsible for covering events in several tumultuous countries simultaneously, an extreme burden that researchers in other regions contend with as well. Similarly, long-evolving shifts in global power came into clear relief, making it apparent that we must intensify our engagement in key centers of influence beyond the Western capitals in which we have traditionally worked.

Launched just one year ago, Human Rights Watch's Global Challenge Campaign aims to address these shortfalls—to deepen our research capacity where we are stretched too thin, and to enhance our ability to enlist important capitals worldwide in effecting change. We have already taken great strides toward building a more effective, genuinely global organization, but much work remains.

None of this would be possible without the generosity of our donors. We are most grateful for the part that so many of you have played in enabling us to make our vision for a safer, more just world a reality.



JAMES F. HOGE, JR., BOARD CHAIR



KENNETH ROTH, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

A WIDER SPHERE OF IMPACT



Demanding justice on a global scale

From Africa to Asia, from Europe to the Americas, we exposed grave abuses, demanded justice for the victims, and exerted pressure to bring about lasting change. These examples illustrate the profound impact of our work.



Prospective domestic workers from Indonesia clean the facilities of their training center prior to migrating for employment to Singapore, Hong Kong, and Taiwan. © 2006 Susan Meiselas/Magnum Photo

GLOBAL
DEFENDING THE RIGHTS OF WOMEN AND GIRLS

TWO GROUNDBREAKING NEW HUMAN RIGHTS TREATIES

We helped to create two groundbreaking treaties that protect the rights of women and girls. The first obliges states to protect women from violence, including domestic violence. The second extends labor protections to tens of millions of domestic workers, the vast majority of whom are women. Our years of research and tenacious advocacy on these issues built momentum for the treaties' adoption, and 18 countries have already signed the Domestic Violence Convention.

MEXICO
BRINGING ABUSIVE SOLDIERS TO JUSTICE

A LANDMARK RULING FOR MILITARY ACCOUNTABILITY

In a July 2011 ruling, Mexico's Supreme Court affirmed our longstanding recommendation that human rights abuses by Mexico's military be tried in civilian courts. Mexican soldiers accused of human rights violations have long been prosecuted in a military system that protects its own. Of nearly 3,700 investigations opened in the military justice system into alleged abuses by the military since 2007, only 29 soldiers have been convicted of crimes. Going forward, we will advocate aggressively for implementation of the ruling to ensure that military personnel are held accountable for torture, rape, disappearances, and other crimes it has committed.

“INSTEAD OF REDUCING VIOLENCE, MEXICO'S 'WAR ON DRUGS' HAS RESULTED IN A DRAMATIC INCREASE IN APPALLING ABUSES BY SOLDIERS, MAKING THE CLIMATE OF LAWLESSNESS AND FEAR WORSE IN MANY PARTS OF THE COUNTRY.”

Nik Steinberg
Mexico Researcher



Mexican Army special forces parade commemorating the 198th anniversary of Mexico's independence at the Zócalo Square in Mexico City, September 16, 2008.

© 2008 Getty Images



Ivorian refugees on the road between the Liberian towns of Zwedru and Janzon, after fleeing violence in western Côte d'Ivoire, March 25, 2011. © 2011 Juliette Robert

CÔTE D'IVOIRE
PROTECTING CIVILIANS FROM POLITICAL VIOLENCE

TIMELY ACTION BY THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT

For six months after contested elections in Côte d'Ivoire, political violence escalated to an unprecedented level, with at least 3,000 people killed. In-depth fieldwork by our researchers provided a steady stream of information to journalists, diplomats, and UN peacekeepers, who responded with more robust protection for vulnerable civilians. Our timely and detailed reporting played a major role in the International Criminal Court's decision to open an investigation and to begin to issue arrest warrants—key steps in bringing those responsible for crimes in Côte d'Ivoire to justice.

“THE PURSUIT OF JUSTICE IS ESSENTIAL TO VICTIMS ON BOTH SIDES WHO SAW THEIR LOVED ONES KILLED, OR HOUSES BURNED.”

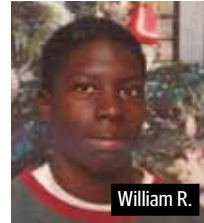
Daniel Bekele
Africa Director



Brian C.



Patricia L.



William R.

All © 2008 Private

UNITED STATES
FIGHTING FOR JUVENILE JUSTICE

A LONG-FOUGHT VICTORY IN THE SUPREME COURT

For more than a decade, we worked to end the criminal justice system's harsh treatment of youth and to show why children should not be punished as adults. Years of advocacy paid off in 2011 when the Supreme Court eradicated life-without-parole sentences for children found guilty of non-homicide crimes. Bolstered by this victory, we are working to have children removed from the adult justice system, and to promote sentencing that reflects maturity levels and the potential for rehabilitation.



SERBIA & KOSOVO

HOLDING WAR CRIMINALS TO ACCOUNT

THE MOST SUCCESSFUL WAR CRIMES COURT SINCE NUREMBERG

2011 was a landmark year for justice in the Balkans. Using evidence compiled in part by our experts, the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia sentenced Serbian police chief Vlastimir Djordjevic to 27 years in prison for war crimes. Soon after, Ratko Mladic—the Bosnian Serb commander accused of genocide—was apprehended following a long Human Rights Watch campaign and now awaits trial for crimes we documented more than 15 years ago. His arrest was quickly followed by that of Goran Hadzic, a Croatian Serb wartime leader wanted by the Yugoslav tribunal for war crimes and crimes against humanity. With these arrests, all surviving suspects indicted for war crimes in the Balkans have been captured.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

DOCUMENTING AND PUBLICIZING ABUSES

FROM INVESTIGATION TO ARREST

For years, there were rumors of horrific abuse—including gang rapes and beatings—at a gold mine in Porgera, a remote part of Papua New Guinea. Barrick Gold, the mine’s owner and world’s largest gold producer, denied these claims. After we documented the alleged crimes, an internal company investigation uncovered additional, similar

abuses. Several former guards were arrested, police are now conducting an investigation, and Barrick Gold is putting new mechanisms in place to monitor the conduct of its personnel. Barrick Gold is also creating new channels for victims to report abuses without fear of retribution.



INDIA

PREVENTING UNNECESSARY USE OF LETHAL FORCE

DRASTIC REDUCTION IN BORDER DEATHS

In the last decade, more than 900 Bangladeshi and Indian nationals have been killed by India’s Border Security Force (BSF), which frequently used lethal force in its anti-crime efforts. In March, just weeks after we released a report on this issue, the Indian government ordered that the BSF be issued less dangerous weapons and indicated that the BSF should exercise restraint in its operations. The number of border killings had dropped significantly by the next month.

“DESPITE ORDERS FROM NEW DELHI TO END KILLINGS AND ABUSE AND TO EXERCISE RESTRAINT IN DEALING WITH PEOPLE CROSSING THE BORDER, NEW DEATHS AND OTHER SERIOUS ABUSES ARE BEING REPORTED.”

Meenakshi Ganguly
South Asia Director

SPOTLIGHT: THE ARAB SPRING

THE ARAB SPRING

On December 17, 2010, a 26-year-old Tunisian man set himself on fire in protest against government corruption and abuse. This individual act of defiance inspired a chain of popular uprisings across the Arab world that is changing the course of history.

With decades of experience in the region and extensive on-the-ground networks, Human Rights Watch was right there as events unfolded. Documenting accounts of abuse. Shaping the international response. Advocating for peaceful transitions. Keeping human rights at the center of this fast-evolving story. Most importantly, our work has prompted concrete action in several nations, three of which—Egypt, Libya, and Syria—are featured here.



Rebels flee under fire from the Libyan army.
© 2011 Yuri Kozyrev/NOOR for Time/Redux
Scan QR Code with a mobile device to
watch our video on the Arab Spring.

On April 1, 2011, Egyptians returned to Tahrir Square in Cairo for a rally to “save the revolution” and protect their right to demonstrate.

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Egypt READY FOR THE BIG MOMENT



The Researcher

HEBA MORAYEF,
EGYPT RESEARCHER

“I don’t think any of us could have predicted that tens of thousands of Egyptians would heed the call. As students, our dream was to demonstrate in the center of the city, but my generation had only experienced Egypt under a state of emergency and brutal crackdowns. Despite the massive challenges and uncertainty that lie ahead, this new sense of empowerment and determination remains our best guarantee that Egypt will move toward a democratic government that respects human rights.”

Heba Morayef, Researcher,
Human Rights Watch

© 2011 Platon for Human Rights Watch

For 30 years, Mubarak ruled Egypt with an iron fist

Hosni Mubarak and his government prohibited public demonstrations and held thousands indefinitely without charge. They detained journalists and intimidated members of the opposition. In a climate of impunity, they tortured detainees, at times to death. They perpetuated horrific abuses, year after year.

But in January 2011, decades of oppression gave way to new courage and hope. When anger with the government erupted into widespread protests, Human Rights Watch immediately rose to the defense of those brave enough to stand up to the brutal regime.

Gathering indisputable evidence

We have been present on the ground in Egypt for years, documenting violations including political repression, torture, and the denial of basic freedoms. During the uprising, our regular research was boosted with additional investigations by our emergency response staff, and we quickly became a critical source of information.

Getting the facts firsthand

Heba Morayef, our lead researcher and an Egyptian citizen, had instant credibility with victims and witnesses, and her connections to other human rights activists in the country allowed Human Rights Watch to gain invaluable access across the country. Throughout the 18-day uprising, Heba and her team issued a steady stream of reports rooted in fact and eyewitness accounts.

Breaking through media blackouts

In an effort to paralyze and ultimately end protests, Mubarak and the Egyptian government imposed a blackout on the nation's media, internet, and most mobile communications. This information blackout was intended to disrupt planned marches, block images of brutality, and silence protesters. Media sources were often unable to report, but we continued to find ways to post live updates about the government's brutal crackdown:

AT 5:20 PM ON JANUARY 28, 2011, TRAFFIC TO AND FROM EGYPT ACROSS 80 INTERNET PROVIDERS DROPPED PRECIPITOUSLY. HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH BECAME THE ON-THE-GROUND SOURCE FOR INFORMATION.

CAIRO | FEBRUARY 1, 2011

“HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE ARE STREAMING INTO THE MAIN SQUARE. TENS OF THOUSANDS ARE ALREADY THERE (EASILY 60,000+) AND IT'S ONLY MIDDAY.”

Heba Morayef
Egypt Researcher

ALEXANDRIA | FEBRUARY 2, 2011

“WE FINALLY MANAGED TO VISIT ALL THE MORGUES IN THE CITY OF ALEXANDRIA AND HAVE A MORE COMPLETE DEATH TOLL FOR LAST FRIDAY'S PROTESTS.”

Peter Bouckaert
Emergencies Director

SUEZ | JANUARY 30, 2011

“JUST BACK FROM SUEZ WHERE WE MET THE DIRECTOR OF THE MAIN HOSPITAL, WHO CONFIRMED 17 DEAD SO FAR. THE ATMOSPHERE IN SUEZ IS TENSE, THE BIG COMPLAINT IS THE ABSENCE OF SECURITY.”

Joe Stork
Middle East and North Africa Deputy Director





Ramy Essam, 23, is a charismatic singer, guitarist, and songwriter who became famous during the Tahrir Square protests as "The Singer of the Square." Detained and tortured by the Egyptian military after President Hosni Mubarak fell, Ramy Essam has written an album of songs called "The Square," based on his experiences during and after the protests.

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Making the world bear witness

As protests mounted, we called for accountability at the highest levels and maximized pressure on security forces to exercise restraint. We closely monitored the security forces' treatment of demonstrators; collected eyewitness testimony from protesters on the street; interviewed staff members at hospitals and morgues; and witnessed police and security forces attacking peaceful protesters.

Our efforts raised awareness among the police and military that they could face prosecution if they opened fire on demonstrators without justification. Through our near-daily press releases and aggressive advocacy with the United States, European Union and United Nations, we were able to amplify the impact of our evidence. Ultimately, our findings helped galvanize the public pressure and political will—both within the country and among its international peers—that resulted in Mubarak stepping down.

“THOSE OF US WHO WERE THERE THAT DAY GOT A CLOSE-UP VIEW OF THE EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT’S OLD, REPRESSIVE WAYS: ARBITRARY ARREST, ISOLATION AND INTIMIDATION.”

Daniel Williams
Senior Emergencies Researcher

Publicizing the evidence

We worked tirelessly to gather evidence, visiting hospitals and morgues to calculate the true extent of the government’s crimes. We published the first verified death toll of demonstrators at the hands of security forces. We were the leading organization to document arbitrary arrest and torture at a time when the military had absolute control and it was unclear whether or not it would stand by Mubarak. Our findings shocked both the global community and Egyptians themselves, and brought the full weight of international attention to the increasingly volatile situation.



LARGE GROUPS OF PROTESTERS TOOK TO THE STREETS AFTER FRIDAY PRAYERS

Egyptian riot police officers watch people praying outside the Mustafa Mahmud mosque in Cairo on January 28, 2011, ahead of a large demonstration demanding the ouster of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. © 2011 Getty Images



**THEY WERE BRUTALLY CONFRONTED WITH:
RUBBER BULLETS
BATONS
TEAR GAS
LIVE FIRE**

**MORE THAN
800
KILLED**

Riot police charge during a clash with thousands of protesters in Cairo on January 25, 2011. © 2011 Scott Nelson/The New York Times/Redux

Advocating for change

Throughout the uprising and ensuing crackdowns, we became the go-to source for international media and brought global attention to the crimes taking place.

After Mubarak stepped down on February 11, we worked with diplomatic and trading partners—including the United States and European Union members—to call on Egypt to make immediate progress toward a democratic transition of power and full

respect of human rights. A referendum on constitutional changes in March paved the way for parliamentary and presidential elections. We have been pressing the military to allow these elections to proceed freely. We have been urging all political parties to commit any new government to respect human rights and thus answer the call of the hundreds of thousands of Egyptians who rose up to demand freedom and an end to repression.

COORDINATING A NETWORK OF PARTNERS

HOSPITALS

- ALEXANDRIA GENERAL HOSPITAL
- COM AL DIKKA HOSPITAL
- QASR AL AINI HOSPITAL
- DEMERDASH HOSPITAL
- MOUNIRA HOSPITAL
- FARANSI HOSPITAL

INTERNATIONAL NGOS

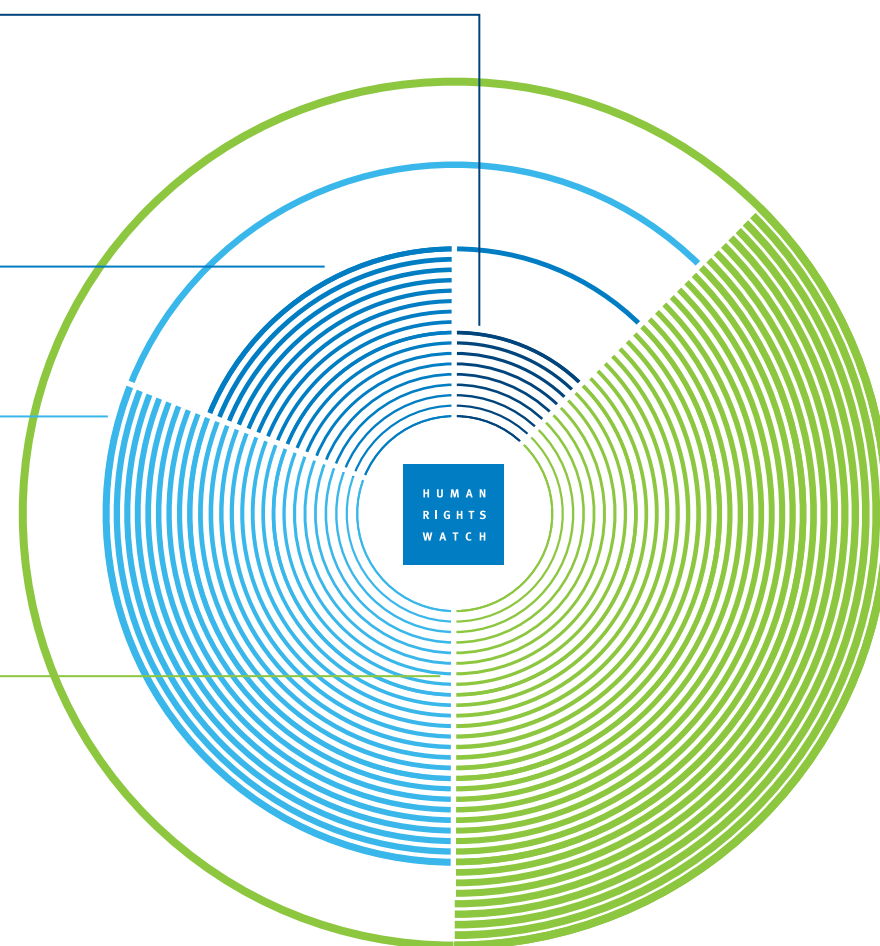
- INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
- AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

EGYPTIAN NGOS

- THE CAIRO INSTITUTE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS STUDIES
- HISHAM MUBARAK LAW CENTER
- THE EGYPTIAN INITIATIVE FOR PERSONAL RIGHTS
- EGYPTIAN CENTER FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RIGHTS

INTERNATIONAL PRESS

- AL ARABIYA
- AL JAZEERA
- AL MASRY AL YOM
- AL SHOROUK
- AP
- BBC NEWS
- CNN
- LOS ANGELES TIMES
- MAIL & GUARDIAN
- NEW YORK TIMES
- REUTERS
- WASHINGTON POST



Looking ahead: Egypt

During this critical period of transition, Human Rights Watch is safeguarding fundamental freedoms and pushing for a clean break from authoritarian rule. We will work to:

Help end ongoing violations by the military

Monitor the actions and policies of the military rulers, who have been ignoring credible reports of abuse and continuing to prosecute civilians before military tribunals.

Press for key legal reforms

Advocate for credible, representative institutions to oversee the transition to democracy and to overhaul existing laws that restrict the rights to free speech, assembly, association, and the creation of political parties.

Ensure accountability for past abuses

Demand accountability for the worst perpetrators, monitor key trials of former officials including Mubarak, and push for prosecution of police and military officers responsible for abuses. ■

Women celebrate in Tahrir Square after it is announced that Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak was stepping down on February 11, 2011, in Cairo.



The Advocate

PHILIPPE BOLOPION,
UNITED NATIONS DIRECTOR

“The key to securing a tough global response to Gaddafi’s abuses in Libya was to convince the world community through the UN Security Council to act. Using the hour-by-hour reports coming in from Human Rights Watch researchers, we worked behind the scenes with diplomats, UN officials, and the defecting Libyan ambassadors to mobilize the world body. With Human Rights Watch’s support, the UN Security Council ended up unanimously passing Resolution 1970, which sanctioned the Libyan government and gave the International Criminal Court jurisdiction over war crimes and crimes against humanity committed in Libya. It is one of the strongest resolutions ever adopted and represents a crucial step toward a world that does not tolerate mass atrocities.”

Philippe BoloPion, United Nations
Director, Human Rights Watch

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Libya ISOLATING A BRUTAL REGIME

Smoke rises from a bombed Libyan military warehouse in the capital, Tripoli, on September 24, 2011.

© 2011 AP Images

For four decades, Libya was a state run by fear

The government tortured political prisoners, conducted show trials, and silenced critics of Muammar Gaddafi with sometimes lethal force. To defy Gaddafi's revolutionary ideology was a crime punishable by death. Some government opponents were "disappeared" or publicly executed.

In 1996, security forces massacred an estimated 1,200 prisoners in Tripoli's Abu Salim prison after an attempted revolt.

In 2011, family members demanding the truth about the Abu Salim massacre helped to spark a popular uprising against Gaddafi. When protests erupted across Libya in February, Human Rights Watch took swift action.

Mobilizing a team of investigators

To assist our regular Libya researcher, we deployed experienced researchers from across Human Rights Watch's emergency response team to cover the unfolding events. They reported on attacks against demonstrators, monitored compliance with the laws of war by all sides, and interviewed refugees.

Protecting migrant workers from abuse

After reports that Gaddafi had hired foreign mercenaries to attack anti-government protesters, ordinary African migrant workers became the target of violent attacks. We publicized the abuses against these foreign workers, calling on neighboring governments and regional bodies to facilitate their evacuation from Libya.

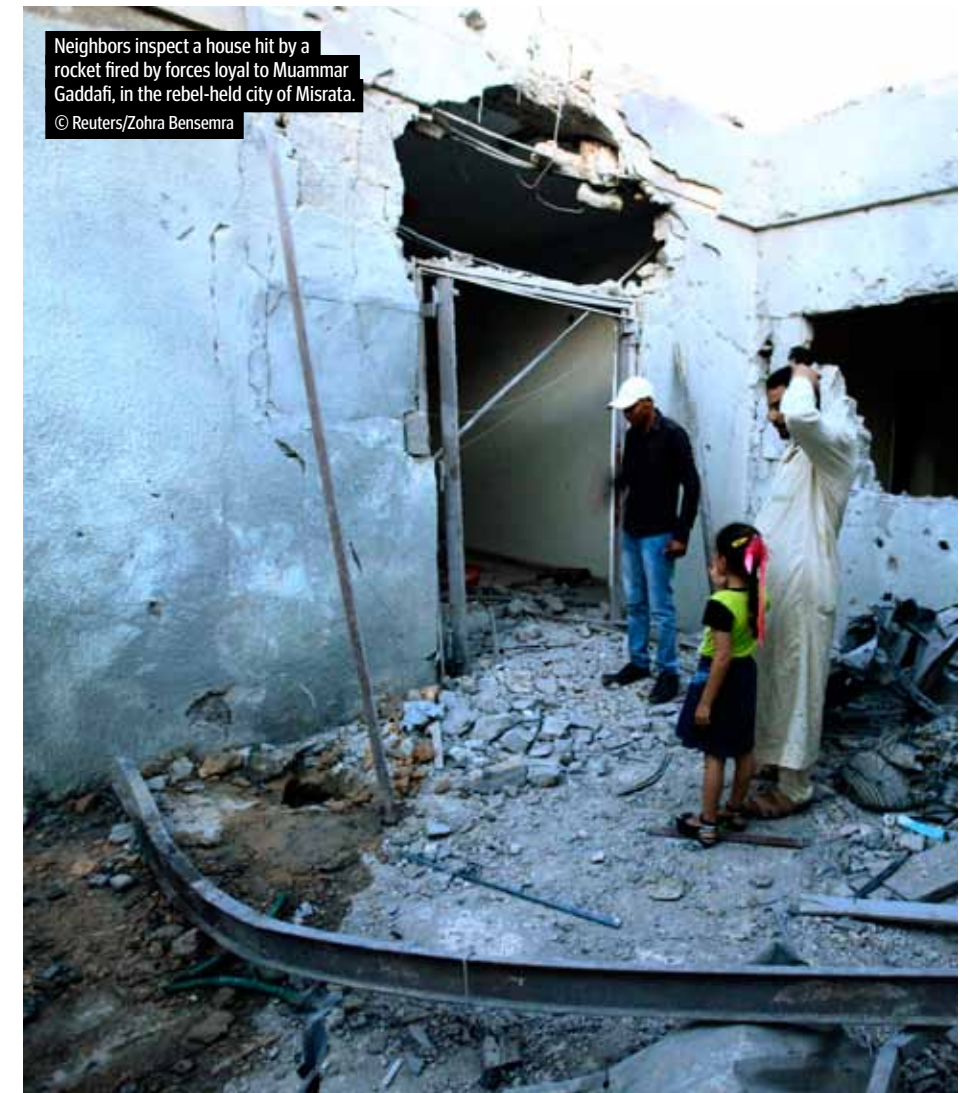
Calling for an end to landmines

Despite a global ban on antipersonnel landmines, which Human Rights Watch played a lead role in securing, Gaddafi's forces began deploying this indiscriminate weapon, often in areas where civilians were present. We called on the international community to condemn this outlawed practice, which puts people at great risk during and after the war. We succeeded in eliciting commitments from rebel forces that they would not use landmines. In April, the National Transitional Council, which came to replace the Gaddafi government, pledged to destroy every landmine in its possession.

"THE YOUTH CAME TO OUR AREA AND THREATENED ME, SAYING, 'THERE IS THE BLACK, THE BLACK WHO GADDAFI HIRED,' SO I HAD TO RUN AWAY."

Roland Omokpia
30-year-old electrician from Nigeria

A rebel commander with antivehicle and antipersonnel mines found in the Nafusa Mountains in Libya on July 6, 2011.
© 2011 Sidney Kwiram/Human Rights Watch



Neighbors inspect a house hit by a rocket fired by forces loyal to Muammar Gaddafi, in the rebel-held city of Misrata.
© Reuters/Zohra Bensemra



Migrant workers line up to board an evacuation ship at the port in Misrata on April 27, 2011.
© 2011 Bryan Denton/The New York Times/Redux

Keeping the media informed

With live access to the fast-changing situation, Human Rights Watch became a widely cited source in the media. By interviewing the victims and witnesses of abuses in Libya and visiting the scenes of crimes, we were able to provide unique insight into daily events and accurately portray atrocities by all sides.

Advocating global and regional action

Our reporting of the facts showed the world the gravity of Gaddafi's abuses against his people and helped to make it impossible for the UN and influential governments not to act. The quality and timeliness of our findings were instrumental in getting the attention of government leaders, which resulted in intensified pressure on Gaddafi.

Publicizing the killing of protesters

As part of our commitment to revealing the extent of Gaddafi's repression, our researchers interviewed many victims, eyewitnesses, and hospital workers. While global and regional media struggled to access information about death tolls, our investigations revealed indisputable proof that government forces repeatedly opened fire on peaceful protesters.

Orchestrating a global response

Thanks in part to Human Rights Watch's efforts, the world's powers took notice. Libya's mission to the UN defected and, at our urging, began calling for action. Other governments joined in. The resulting response to the bloodshed in Libya sent a powerful signal to the world that the Gaddafi regime stood alone.

Some of our most effective advocacy focused on South Africa, a country with close ties to Gaddafi and significant influence because of its seat on the UN Security Council. With South Africa's support in hand, other governments joined in as well, and the Security Council voted unanimously in favor of referring Libya to the International Criminal Court. This sent a strong signal that even friendly governments would not tolerate Gaddafi's massacre of his people.

Applying pressure where it counts

Our advocacy led to both condemnation of the Gaddafi government and isolation of Libya within the international community:

Investigation of government abuse

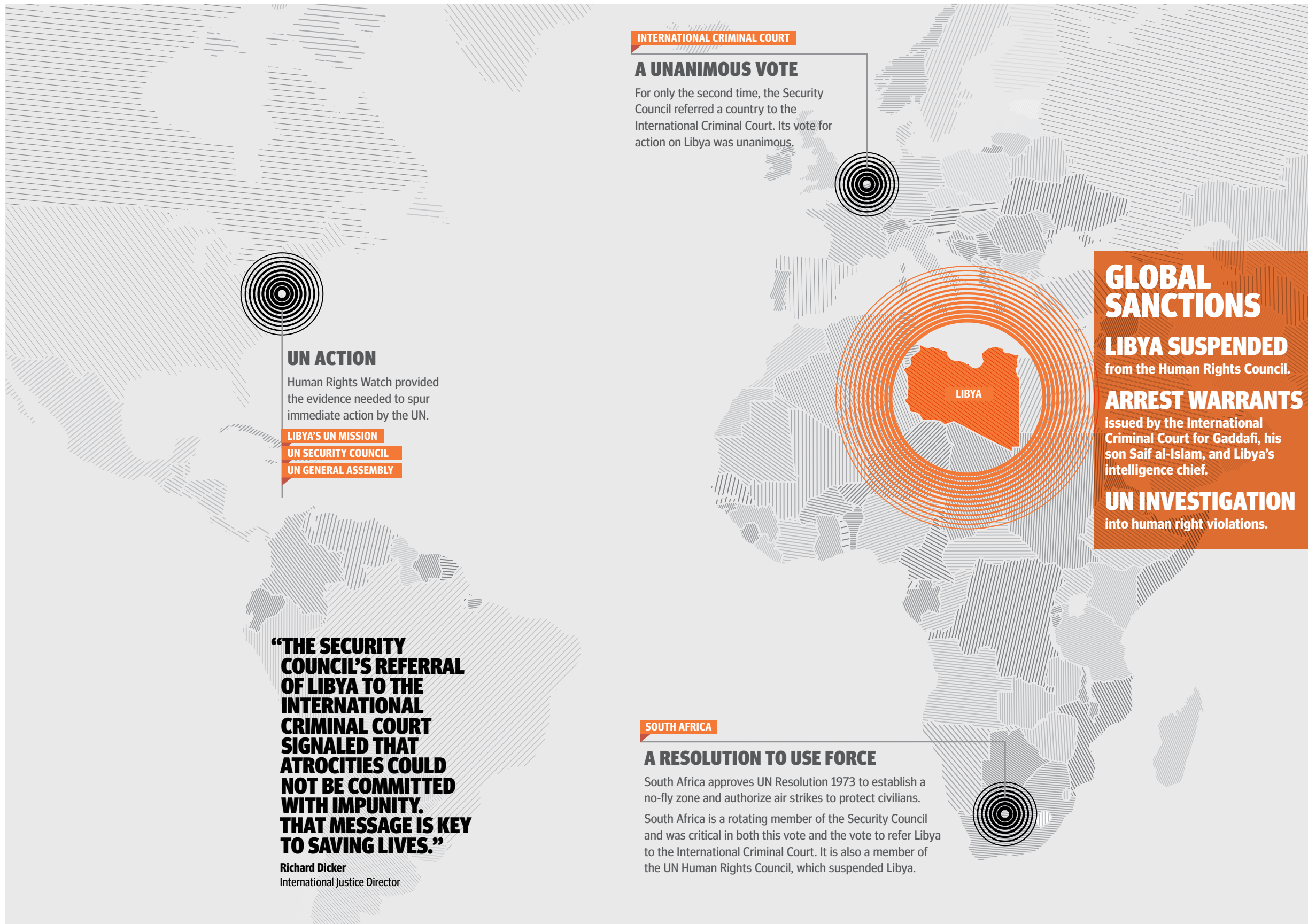
Our research helped to secure an investigation by the International Criminal Court into international crimes in Libya.

Sanctions against Libya's leaders

The support of Libya's renegade UN mission, with our encouragement, helped to convince South Africa and other members of the UN Security Council to take legal action and impose sanctions.

Suspension from the UN Human Rights Council

In response to our joint advocacy efforts with other groups, the UN General Assembly suspended Libya from the Human Rights Council—an unprecedented move.



UN ACTION

Human Rights Watch provided the evidence needed to spur immediate action by the UN.

- LIBYA'S UN MISSION
- UN SECURITY COUNCIL
- UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

“THE SECURITY COUNCIL’S REFERRAL OF LIBYA TO THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT SIGNALLED THAT ATROCITIES COULD NOT BE COMMITTED WITH IMPUNITY. THAT MESSAGE IS KEY TO SAVING LIVES.”

Richard Dicker
International Justice Director

INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT

A UNANIMOUS VOTE

For only the second time, the Security Council referred a country to the International Criminal Court. Its vote for action on Libya was unanimous.

SOUTH AFRICA

A RESOLUTION TO USE FORCE

South Africa approves UN Resolution 1973 to establish a no-fly zone and authorize air strikes to protect civilians.

South Africa is a rotating member of the Security Council and was critical in both this vote and the vote to refer Libya to the International Criminal Court. It is also a member of the UN Human Rights Council, which suspended Libya.

GLOBAL SANCTIONS

LIBYA SUSPENDED
from the Human Rights Council.

ARREST WARRANTS

issued by the International Criminal Court for Gaddafi, his son Saif al-Islam, and Libya's intelligence chief.

UN INVESTIGATION
into human right violations.

Remaining vigilant

We made significant strides in shaping the international response and advancing protection for civilians caught in the conflict. Now we are monitoring the situation and applying pressure on the ruling National Transitional Council to respect human rights and implement the rule of law.

Ensuring exhumation of mass graves

Mass grave sites have come to light since the Gaddafi government's fall, we are urging the National Transitional Council to guard suspected grave sites, to develop comprehensive plans for exhumations, and to take steps to ensure that those responsible are brought to justice.

Limiting access to dangerous weapons

We are highlighting the danger of poorly secured munitions warehouses. Weapons including surface-to-air missiles, which are capable of downing an airliner, began to disappear from unsecured facilities when Gaddafi forces disbanded. We are also pressing for independent militia to be brought under government authority.

“THE NATIONAL TRANSITIONAL COUNCIL HAS SET A GOOD TONE FOR THE TRANSITION WITH FORCEFUL STATEMENTS ABOUT JUSTICE AND HUMAN RIGHTS. BUT CONCRETE STEPS ARE URGENTLY NEEDED TO AVOID REVENGE, PROTECT VULNERABLE PEOPLE, AND HELP PROMOTE THE RULE OF LAW.”

Sarah Leah Whitson
Middle East and North Africa Director



MORE THAN 100,000
ANTIPERSONNEL AND ANTIVEHICLE MINES, MORTARS, ARTILLERY, AND TANK SHELLS FOUND IN ONE STORAGE FACILITY

Abandoned and unguarded tank cannon ammunition found at an ammunition storage depot south of Sirte, Libya, on October 22, 2011.
© 2011 Peter Bouckaert/Human Rights Watch



MORE THAN 1,200
PRISONERS DIED DURING THE ABU SALIM MASSACRE 15 YEARS AGO

A man collects human remains at the site of a mass grave in Tripoli on September 25, 2011.
© 2011 Reuters

Looking ahead: Libya

Human Rights Watch will continue to monitor and report on human rights violations. We will:

Document war crimes

Continue to gather evidence of atrocities—such as Gaddafi's siege of Misrata—and push for accountability.

Publicize political repression

Issue news releases that draw attention to ongoing human rights violations, such as torture and revenge attacks against Gaddafi supporters.

Promote democratic reform

Monitor reform of the judicial and security sectors to promote human rights and the rule of law. ■



Demonstrators hold portraits of relatives killed by the Gaddafi regime at a gathering in Benghazi, Libya.
© 2011 Panos Pictures



The Reporter

NADIM HOURY, MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA DEPUTY DIRECTOR

“I interviewed many people who were fleeing violent repression at Syria’s border with Lebanon and Turkey. I heard how the Syrian army surrounded neighborhoods, cut communications, and forced their way into people’s homes, looking for activists and protest participants—under orders to stop the protests at any cost. By documenting atrocities firsthand and making those findings public, Human Rights Watch is ensuring they can never be denied or dismissed, that pressure builds for the violence to end, and that the perpetrators are brought to justice.”

Nadim Houry, Middle East and North Africa

Deputy Director

© 2011 Human Rights Watch



Syria

UNDERCOVER IN A POLICE STATE

A Syrian army tank is positioned on the outskirts of the city of Homs, the site of deadly attacks by state security forces against anti-government protesters. July 16, 2011.

© 2011 Moises Saman/Magnum

Since 1963, Syria has been governed under a repressive emergency law

After Bashar al Assad succeeded his father as president in 2000, many hoped that the human rights situation would improve. More than a decade later, Assad has failed to translate that promise into action. Syrian security agencies regularly violate the rights of citizens by arresting activists, censoring dissent, detaining people indefinitely, and employing torture.

But in 2011, Syria's violent repression couldn't prevent a chain of protests calling for change. As soon as they began, Human Rights Watch mobilized a network of activists in Syria to collect and publicize the facts. We also worked under the radar inside the country.

Exposing government crimes

When mass pro-democracy protests began, the Assad government responded by arresting demonstrators arbitrarily, and killing many of them. Despite the danger—and despite the government banning foreign journalists and attempting to shut down the communications infrastructure—Human Rights Watch brought attention to these crimes.

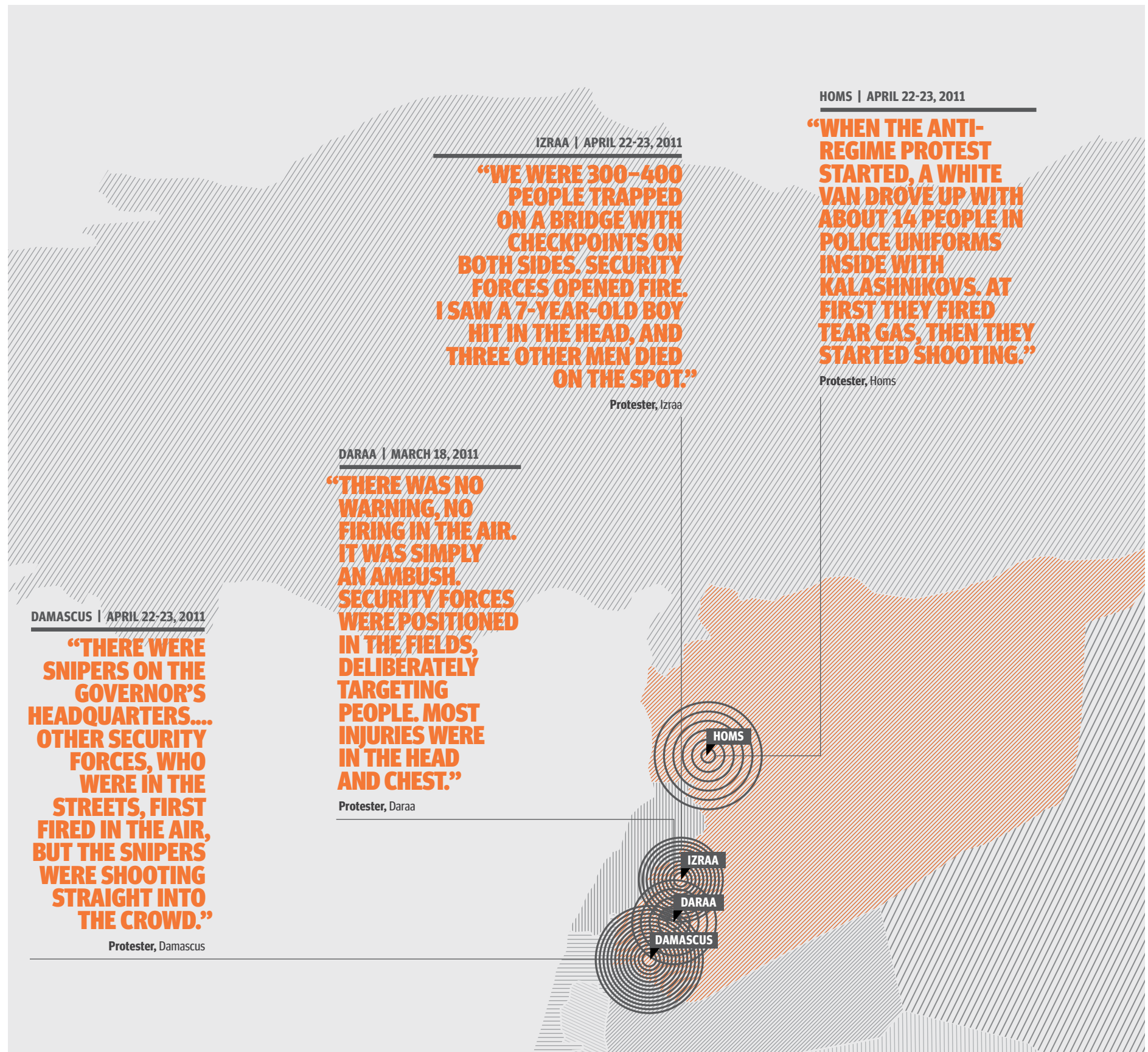
Advocating for action at the highest levels

Our years of experience reporting on human rights issues in Syria allowed us to conduct groundbreaking investigations into abuses against demonstrators by Syrian security forces. We used this reporting to advocate for action by the international community, to make it impossible for the

Assad government to deny its deadly crackdowns on protesters, and to build pressure for an end to the killing.

Documenting escalating violence against civilians

Our teams cut through government efforts to hide the truth and persisted until we had indisputable facts to report. By phone, Internet and satellite communications, as well as in person, our teams interviewed victims and witnesses of government attacks, arrests, and torture. Our detailed reporting helped break Syria's information blockade. The facts we published made it into the international and regional media and stood in stark contrast to the government's version of the story.



Spurring the world to action

Our advocacy played a crucial part in the decision by the UN Human Rights Council to take action on Syria. The council unequivocally condemned the actions of President Assad and launched a formal investigation into the killing of protesters, leading to Syria's further isolation from the international community.

Our on-the-ground reporting provided the facts that helped convince the international community to exert pressure on the Assad government:

Motivating the UN to take action

Armed with our documentation, the UN Human Rights Council called a special session on Syria in April 2011.

Isolating Syria from the international community

As a result of international condemnation, Syria withdrew its bid for a seat on the UN Human Rights Council.

Lobbying for an international commission of inquiry

In April 2011, the UN Human Rights Council dispatched an investigation. In August 2011 it established an International Commission of Inquiry to identify those responsible to ensure they are held to account for their crimes, including crimes against humanity.

Holding government officials personally accountable

Our advocates in Washington and Brussels worked closely with the United States and the European Union to establish a list of Syrian government officials who should be subjected to international sanctions. Both the United States and the European Union approved asset freezes and travel bans for a broad range of senior Syrian officials, including Assad himself.

Human Rights Watch pressed all members of the UN Security Council to take action. Through the press and directly with senior officials in South Africa, India, Brazil, and Russia, we highlighted the high human cost of international inaction.



“AFTER THE UN MISSION LEFT, THE SECURITY FORCES OPENED FIRE ON US.”

Protester

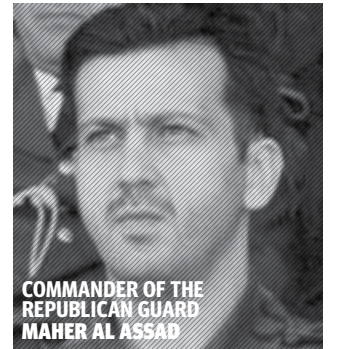
A Syrian woman and her grandfather find shelter in an abandoned school after fleeing a military crackdown against anti-government protesters in June 2011.
© 2011 Daniel Etter/The New York Times/Redux

THE US AND EU HAVE CALLED FOR PRESIDENT ASSAD TO RESIGN



PRESIDENT BASHAR AL ASSAD

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COMMANDER OF THE REPUBLICAN GUARD MAHER AL ASSAD

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INTERIOR MINISTER MOHAMMAD IBRAHIM AL SHAAR



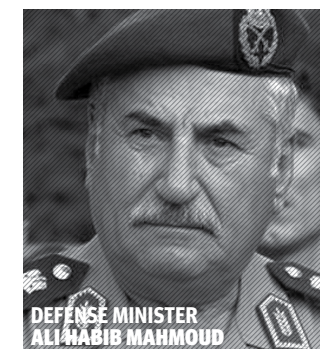
VICE PRESIDENT FAROUK AL SHARARA

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OIL & GAS EXPORTS FROZEN

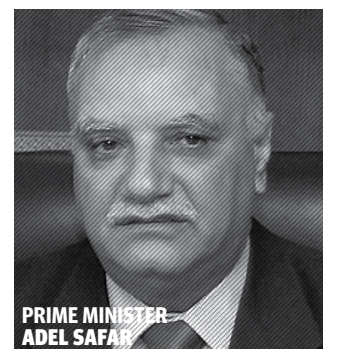
DUE TO GROSS HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES

80 OFFICIALS UNDER ASSET FREEZES



DEFENSE MINISTER ALI HABIB MAHMOUD

© AFP/Getty Images

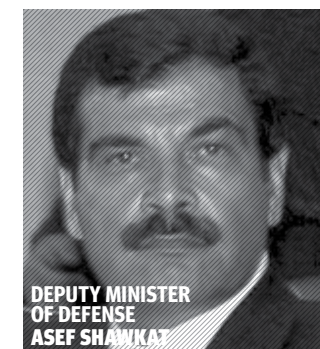


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CONCLUSION

Fighting for a just society in the wake of the Arab Spring

Throughout the Middle East and North Africa, activists and ordinary people from all walks of life have stood up to demand justice and greater political freedom. Having long worked with local human rights groups and activists from across the region, Human Rights Watch was well placed to support their struggle.

Now we are working with local rights groups to lay the foundation for renewed societies that realize justice, freedom, and human rights.

Looking ahead: Syria

Human Rights Watch will continue to expose the reality of violence and repression in Syria. We will:

Deploy staff to the borders

Station staff on Syria's borders with Jordan, Turkey, and Lebanon to collect timely, firsthand evidence and testimony from those fleeing the violence.

Document ongoing abuse

Investigate and publicize human rights abuses against Syrians, including ongoing crackdowns on protesters and activists.

Intensify our international advocacy

Urge influential world leaders—especially key countries outside the West—to press Assad to end the violence and to ensure that wide-reaching reforms are enacted and upheld. ■

An anti-government protester in Cairo's Tahrir Square kisses the Egyptian flag after hearing news of President Hosni Mubarak's resignation on February 11, 2011.

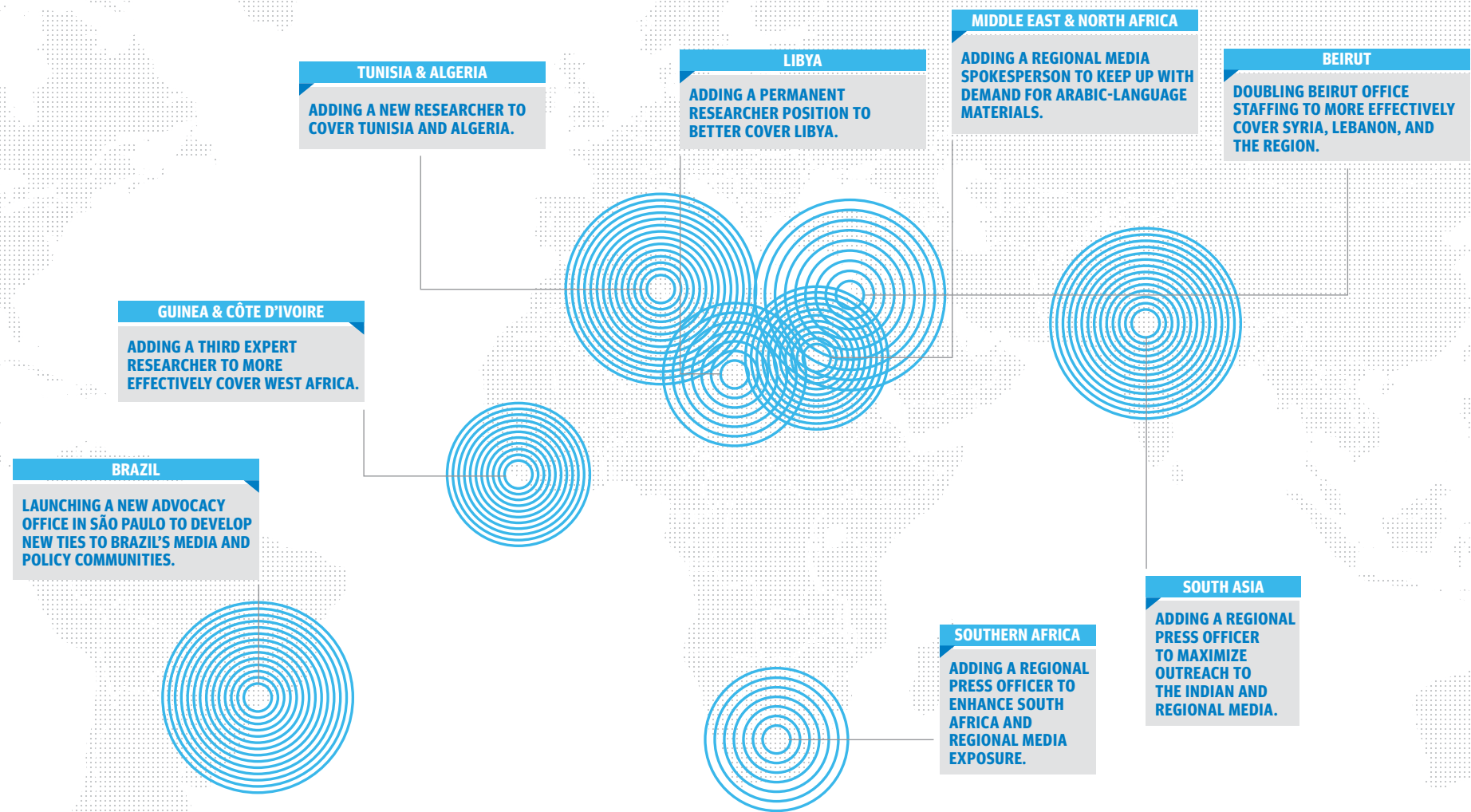
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GLOBAL CHALLENGE

Human Rights Watch launched the Global Challenge Campaign to enhance our capacity to work in the changing world around us.

By deepening our research and advocacy capacity throughout Africa, the Middle East, Latin America, and Asia, we are seeking to meet the challenges of a world in which the balance of power has shifted and governments in the global South play an ever-growing role in shaping and influencing human rights policy.

To be effective in this new environment, we must talk to different leaders in different capitals and in different languages, taking careful account of local contexts and partnering with local civil society groups who share our vision of human rights for all.



“THE WORLD ORDER IS SHIFTING. HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH MUST HAVE THE RESOURCES TO ENGAGE THOSE EMERGING POWERS BEST PLACED TO PUT HUMAN RIGHTS ON THE GLOBAL AGENDA.”

Jim Hoge
Board Chair

Campaign Snapshot

With your generous support and enthusiasm, we are already on our way to meeting the Global Challenge.

\$56M
CURRENT BUDGET

\$80M
CAMPAIGN GOAL

FY12

FY15

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“I WANTED TO FIND OUT IF A BUSINESS-WOMAN IN CHICAGO COULD HAVE SOME SMALL IMPACT ON THE REPRESSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS WORLDWIDE. HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH PROVIDES THAT OPPORTUNITY, CONNECTING ME TO COURAGEOUS ACTIVISTS AND EXPERTS WHO HELP BRING ABOUT REAL CHANGE.”

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“HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH FEARLESSLY EXPOSES THE INDIVIDUALS WHO VIOLATE HUMANITY’S BASIC RIGHTS – THEY TRULY ARE THE WORLD’S HUMAN RIGHTS WATCHDOG. I VALUE THEIR COURAGE, AND I AM PROUD TO BE PART OF THEIR TEAM, SUPPORTING THEM IN FURTHERING THEIR INCREDIBLE WORK ACROSS THE GLOBE.”

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“SINCE 2008, WE HAVE BACKED HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH’S STRATEGIC RESPONSE TO MAJOR SHIFTS IN GLOBAL POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC POWER. THIS VISION OF A TRULY GLOBAL DEFENSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS IS SHARED BY THE OAK FOUNDATION AND PURSUED WITH SKILL, VIGOR AND DETERMINATION BY HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH.”

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“FROM THE STAFF TO COUNCIL MEMBERS, EVERYONE AT HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH HAS ONE THING IN COMMON: THEY ALL CARE. THEY ARE ALL WORKING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE, AND BY SUPPORTING THE ORGANIZATION, I FEEL LIKE I AM CONTRIBUTING TO SOMETHING IMPORTANT.”

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“HELPING LEAD AND REPRESENT THE ORGANIZATION IN GERMANY HAS BEEN A WONDERFUL JOURNEY. WATCHING HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH GROW IN BERLIN AND EUROPE—AND THE EXCELLENCE OF THEIR GLOBAL STAFF—IS NOTHING SHORT OF INSPIRING.”

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STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2011

	USD				UNAUDITED			
	UNRESTRICTED	TEMPORARILY UNRESTRICTED	2011 FY TOTALS	2010 FY TOTALS	UNRESTRICTED	TEMPORARILY UNRESTRICTED	2011 FY TOTALS	2010 FY TOTALS
PUBLIC SUPPORT AND REVENUE								
Public Support:								
Contributions and grants	23,723,470	104,447,801	128,171,271	34,060,398	17,972,326	79,127,122	97,099,448	22,706,932
Special Events	8,033,304	—	8,033,304	6,693,816	6,085,836	—	6,085,836	4,462,544
Total Public Support	31,756,774	104,447,801	136,204,575	40,754,214	24,058,162	79,127,122	103,185,284	27,169,476
Revenue:								
Net investment income	224,707	12,802,815	13,027,522	5,926,640	170,232	9,699,102	9,869,334	3,951,093
Net investment income from limited partnerships	—	2,296,379	2,296,379	2,034,489	—	1,739,681	1,739,681	1,356,326
Publications	62,246	—	62,246	44,964	47,156	—	47,156	29,976
Other	79,352	—	79,352	36,233	60,115	—	60,115	24,155
Total Revenue	366,305	15,099,194	15,465,499	8,042,326	277,504	11,438,783	11,716,287	5,361,551
Net assets released from restrictions	17,395,542	(17,395,542)	—	—	13,178,441	(13,178,441)	—	—
Transfers	3,000,000	(3,000,000)	—	—	2,272,727	(2,272,727)	—	—
Total Public Support and Revenue	52,518,621	99,151,453	151,670,074	48,796,540	39,786,834	75,114,737	114,901,571	32,531,027
EXPENSES								
Program Services								
Africa	5,859,910	—	5,859,910	5,263,931	4,439,326	—	4,439,326	3,509,287
Americas	1,331,448	—	1,331,448	1,204,866	1,008,673	—	1,008,673	803,244
Asia	4,629,535	—	4,629,535	3,824,840	3,507,223	—	3,507,223	2,549,893
Europe and Central Asia	4,123,959	—	4,123,959	3,729,262	3,124,211	—	3,124,211	2,486,175
Middle East and North Africa	3,104,643	—	3,104,643	2,487,143	2,352,002	—	2,352,002	1,658,095
United States	1,105,571	—	1,105,571	855,543	837,554	—	837,554	570,362
Children's Rights	1,551,463	—	1,551,463	1,422,990	1,175,351	—	1,175,351	948,660
Health & Human Rights	1,962,015	—	1,962,015	1,497,380	1,486,375	—	1,486,375	998,253
International Justice	1,325,749	—	1,325,749	1,276,024	1,004,355	—	1,004,355	850,683
Women's Rights	2,083,890	—	2,083,890	2,069,850	1,578,705	—	1,578,705	1,379,900
Other Programs	11,384,854	—	11,384,854	9,589,236	8,624,889	—	8,624,889	6,392,824
Total Program Services	38,463,037	—	38,463,037	33,221,065	29,138,664	—	29,138,664	22,147,377
Supporting Services								
Management and general	3,130,051	—	3,130,051	2,344,370	2,371,251	—	2,371,251	1,562,913
Fundraising	9,045,910	—	9,045,910	8,587,204	6,852,962	—	6,852,962	5,724,803
Total Supporting Services	12,175,961	—	12,175,961	10,931,574	9,224,213	—	9,224,213	7,287,716
Total Expenses	50,638,998	—	50,638,998	44,152,639	38,362,877	—	38,362,877	29,435,093
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS								
Unrestricted	1,879,623	—	1,879,623	(2,042,902)	1,423,957	—	1,423,957	(1,361,935)
Temporarily restricted	—	99,151,453	99,151,453	6,686,803	—	75,114,737	75,114,737	4,457,869
Total Change in Net Assets	1,879,623	99,151,453	101,031,076	4,643,901	1,423,957	75,114,737	76,538,694	3,095,934
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	5,955,114	105,047,256	111,002,370	106,358,469	4,511,450	79,581,255	84,092,424	70,905,646
Net Assets, End of Year	7,834,737	204,198,709	212,033,446	111,002,370	5,935,407	154,695,992	228,192,125	74,001,580

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2011

	USD		EURO (1.32)*		EURO (1.5)*	
ASSETS	2011 FY	2010 FY	2011 FY	2010 FY	2011 FY	2010 FY
Cash and cash equivalents	24,636,942	18,869,076	18,664,350	12,579,384	18,664,350	12,579,384
Investments, at fair value	74,778,549	59,544,303	56,650,416	39,696,202	56,650,416	39,696,202
Investments in limited partnerships	13,558,554	11,488,387	10,271,632	7,658,925	10,271,632	7,658,925
Contributions receivable, net	97,673,792	20,741,758	73,995,297	13,827,839	73,995,297	13,827,839
Other receivables	1,084,046	862,792	821,247	575,195	821,247	575,195
Prepaid expenses and other assets	763,276	343,852	578,240	229,235	578,240	229,235
Security deposits	170,952	177,209	129,509	118,139	129,509	118,139
Fixed Assets, Net	2,606,908	1,903,301	1,974,930	1,268,867	1,974,930	1,268,867
Total Assets	215,273,019	113,930,678	163,085,620	75,953,785	163,085,620	75,953,785
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS LIABILITIES:						
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	2,539,105	2,139,547	1,923,564	1,426,365	1,923,564	1,426,365
Accrued pension expense	97,748	91,554	74,052	61,036	74,052	61,036
Deferred rent	581,240	674,632	440,333	449,755	440,333	449,755
Deferred revenue	21,480	22,575	16,272	15,050	16,272	15,050
Total Liabilities:	3,239,573	2,928,308	2,454,222	1,952,205	2,454,222	1,952,205
COMMITMENT NET ASSETS:						
Unrestricted	7,834,737	5,955,114	5,935,407	3,970,076	5,935,407	3,970,076
Temporarily restricted	204,198,709	105,047,256	154,695,992	70,031,504	154,695,992	70,031,504
Total Net Assets	212,033,446	111,002,370	160,631,398	74,001,580	160,631,398	74,001,580
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	215,273,019	113,930,678	163,085,620	75,953,785	163,085,620	75,953,785

 A complete version of the Human Rights Watch financial statements for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2011, is available at: [Human Rights Watch.org/financials](http://HumanRightsWatch.org/financials)

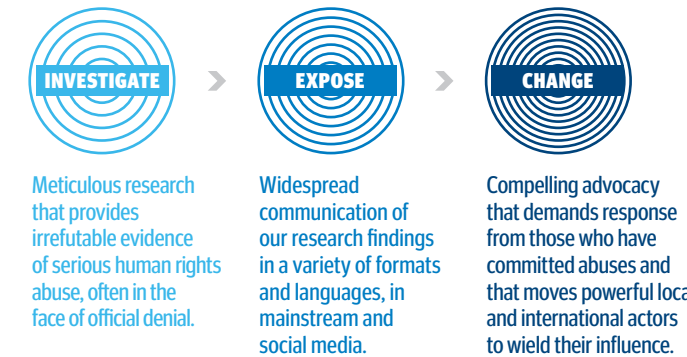
*Financial statements for the years ended June 30, 2011 and 2010 were translated to Euros using a blended rate derived by Human Rights Watch. This method is not in accordance with US GAAP and has not been audited.

Human Rights Watch meets all standards of the Better Business Bureau Wise Giving Alliance.



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Human Rights Watch uses a proven methodology to achieve long-term, meaningful impact. Our work has resulted in sustained, positive change in the behavior of governments, lawmakers, court systems, rebel groups, corporations, regional bodies, and the United Nations.



Our advocacy has an immediate, personal impact on individual lives, but our definition of “impact” goes far beyond the individual. Ultimately, we seek systemic changes in policy and practice that will benefit not just a few individuals, but entire populations, for years to come.

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