



HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH IS DEDICATED TO PROTECTING THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD.

WE STAND WITH VICTIMS AND ACTIVISTS TO BRING OFFENDERS TO JUSTICE, TO PREVENT DISCRIMINATION, TO UPHOLD POLITICAL FREEDOM AND TO PROTECT PEOPLE FROM INHUMANE CONDUCT IN WARTIME. WE INVESTIGATE AND EXPOSE HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AND HOLD ABUSERS ACCOUNTABLE. WE CHALLENGE GOVERNMENTS AND THOSE HOLDING POWER TO END ABUSIVE PRACTICES AND RESPECT INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS LAW. WE ENLIST THE PUBLIC AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO SUPPORT THE CAUSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ALL.



(Cover) Miners work in an open pit gold mine in the town of Durba, a major gold center in northeastern Congo. The trade from this mine is controlled by a local warlord who uses the proceeds to support his abusive military operations.

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HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH ANNUAL REPORT



A woman holds a photograph of her “disappeared” husband in Kashmir. Human Rights Watch has documented forced disappearances all over the world.

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People facing human rights abuse live in fear. Human Rights Watch researchers meet so many of these vulnerable people—children at risk of military abduction, women living with the threat of rape, men confronting torture. They are frequently afraid to speak out, fearful of retaliation against themselves or their loved ones.

Human Rights Watch strives to diminish this fear. By giving people a chance to relate their plight, often anonymously, we magnify their voices through the power of our reporting. By exposing abuses by those in power, we hold officials accountable for these crimes and build pressure to protect people from further persecution.

This annual report contains several illustrations of such work. Charles Taylor, the former Liberian president, backed a Sierra Leonean rebel group that was notorious for hacking off the limbs of innocent people. A Human Rights Watch researcher worked through the worst of the war to expose Taylor's complicity in these atrocities. When Taylor fled into exile, we mounted an intensive, two-year effort to have him surrendered to an international tribunal that we helped to create. Taylor's arrest in March 2006 had Sierra Leoneans dancing on their rooftops. Suddenly able to turn their backs on fear, they rejoiced that the man who once terrorized West Africa was now behind bars, facing justice.

Members of Sri Lanka's Tamil community also lived in fear, even when far from their country's war zone in places like Toronto and London. They faced intimidation and extortion from the LTTE, or Tamil Tigers, a Sri Lankan rebel group known for its brutality, including executions and the forced recruitment of child soldiers. Breaking through a shroud of secrecy, Human Rights Watch exposed the LTTE's shakedown of diaspora Tamils to fund its insurgency. Our report provoked a firestorm of debate,

giving Tamils the space to speak out about a practice that had terrified them, convincing the Canadian government to take corrective action, and depriving a vicious group of an important source of funding.

Those silenced by abusive U.S. interrogation practices included not only the victims but also ordinary military personnel who witnessed the mistreatment of detainees but were too intimidated to speak out. It

took a brave, young U.S. army captain to approach Human Rights Watch and break the silence. His testimony, captured in a widely publicized Human Rights Watch report, helped produce legislation that closed a legal loophole for detainee abuse that the Bush administration had created and was exploiting.

Sometimes the obstacle is less fear than complacency. At the United Nations, we broke diplomatic convention to become a vociferous critic of the many abusive governments that joined the Commission of Human Rights and undermined its work. Our insistence on a higher standard for membership helped to create the new Human Rights Council, which, though far from perfect, represents a major step forward.

Giving the victims of human rights abuse a platform can be enormously powerful. Our reporting convinced mining company officials and Swiss bankers to end practices that enriched murderous rebels in the Democratic Republic of Congo. After our first investigation inside Libya, our report helped convince the government to release everyone on a list of 131 political prisoners we had presented.

Often Human Rights Watch investigations require travel to dangerous places. Our researchers do so to create a world in which people do not have to live in fear. This year's annual report is a testament to the courage of these staff members and to our allies around the world who dedicate their lives to make such a world possible.



JANE OLSON, *Chair*



KENNETH ROTH, *Executive Director*

HUMAN
RIGHTS
WATCH



CONGO THE CURSE OF GOLD

PHOTOGRAPHS BY MARCUS BLEASDALE

Miners work in the grueling conditions of an open pit gold mine in Watsa, northeastern Congo. Access to mining areas is often controlled by local warlords who demand entrance fees and take a substantial percentage of the findings from the miners.



CONGO THE CURSE OF GOLD

“MADAME, THIS IS OUR BIBLE,” SAID A MAN IN ITURI, A NORTHEASTERN DISTRICT IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO. HE WAS SPEAKING TO HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH’S SENIOR CONGO RESEARCHER, ANNEKE VAN WOUDEBERG, AND REFERRING TO *THE CURSE OF GOLD*, OUR REPORT ON THE ROLE OF GOLD MINING IN FOMENTING ATROCITIES IN CONGO. IN THIS UTTERLY IMPOVERISHED REGION, LOCAL PEOPLE HAVE BEEN CLAMORING FOR MORE COPIES OF THE REPORT. DEMAND HAS BEEN SO HIGH THAT SOME FREELY DISTRIBUTED COPIES WERE TRADING FOR \$50 EACH.

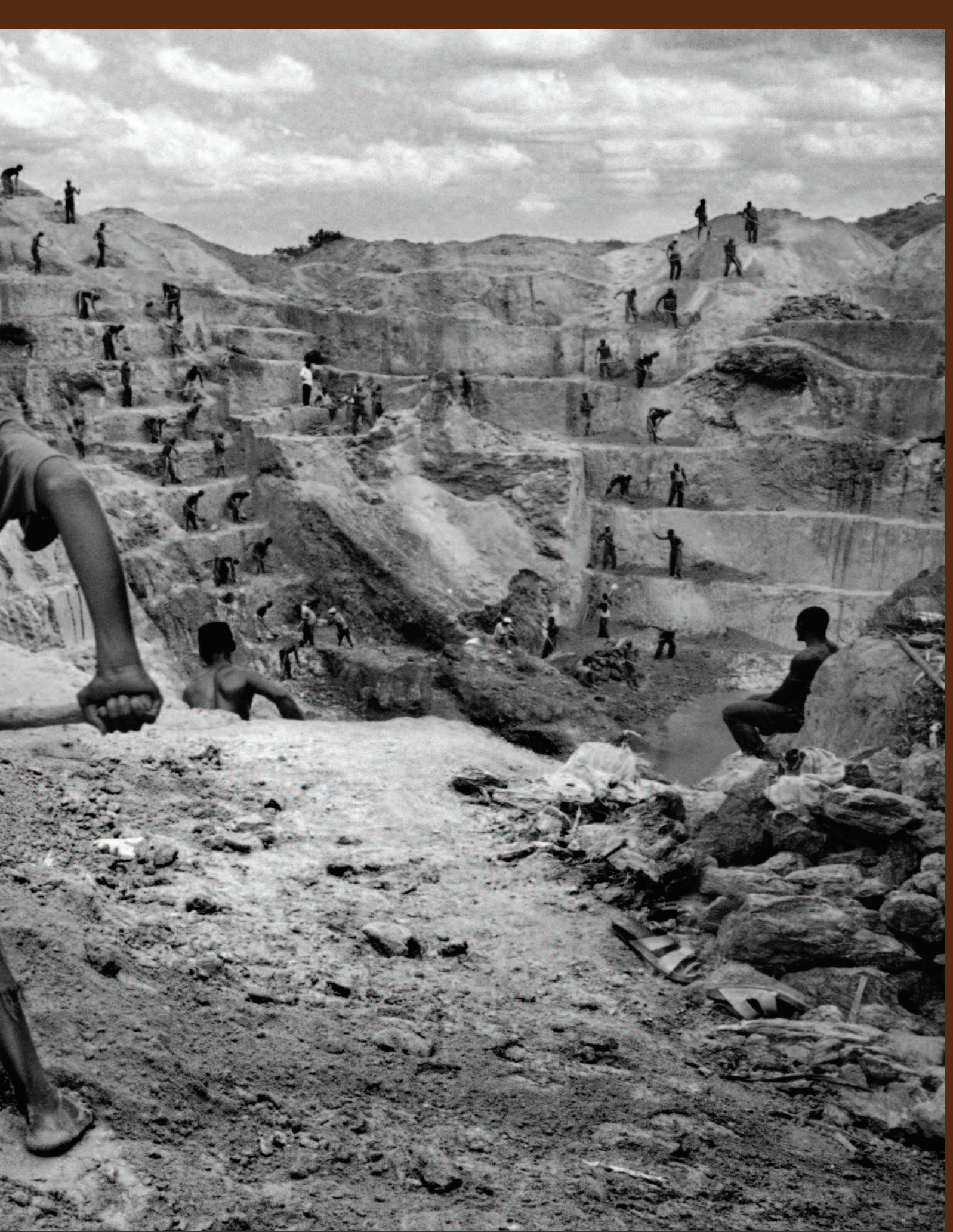
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Nine-year-old Katherine is one of the victims of the war. A local militia fighter cut off her leg with a machete. There was basic medical assistance in a nearby hospital, but she was too scared to stay there when the same militia group attacked the hospital, killing and injuring many of the patients. Her brothers carry her away from the fighting using an old plank as a stretcher.



A child miner digs for gold. Many children work in support functions such as transporting the raw ore or providing assistance during the refining process.



(below) A man is held in detention by a local armed group. Individuals detained during battles are often tortured and many are executed.



(above) Family members prepare for the burial of an eight-month-old child of a miner who died of malaria. In Congo, the effects of exploitation and violence have directly and indirectly caused the deaths of countless people through displacement, preventable and treatable diseases, and starvation.

(above) Civilians flee from armed attacks. Displacement has been frequent in Ituri, especially in the gold mining regions. It is estimated that three quarters of the population have been forced to flee their homes during the past two years.



CONGO THE CURSE OF GOLD

While very much on the minds of local residents, the crisis in Congo has largely been forgotten elsewhere, despite having taken the lives of some four million people since 1998, the highest death toll of any war since World War II.

To mitigate the suffering, Human Rights Watch helped to convince the United Nations to deploy its largest peacekeeping force in Congo. We pushed the prosecutor of the International Criminal Court to make Congo one of the tribunal's first cases. And we persuaded the U.N. mission in Congo to arrest a number of key warlords.

Last year, as a further step to halt the devastation, we addressed one of the major factors driving the war—competition for the country's mineral wealth, particularly gold. *The Curse of Gold* described in detail how local warlords fought for control of the gold mines, committed massacres and rape, and used the profits from gold to purchase more weapons. The report also detailed the involvement of two multinational gold corporations: one, AngloGold Ashanti, developed links with a murderous armed group to access the rich mining areas; another, Metalor Technologies, bought the tainted gold mined by the warlords, thereby contributing to their finances.

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(above) Currency traders in Mbuji Mayi.

(above right) A miner waits as gold is weighed by local traders. A small group of Congolese smugglers close to the warlords reap most of the rewards of the trade in gold. They sell the gold to other middlemen in Uganda before it is shipped to international gold markets. Miners make only a pittance from the gold they find.

(right) A young local fighter patrolling a village in Ituri. Machetes are frequently used by armed groups during their attacks.



We released *The Curse of Gold* in South Africa on the occasion of a major economic summit on investment in Africa. South African radio and television broadcast live debates between senior executives of AngloGold Ashanti and Van Woudenberg, the chief author of the report.

The report, which has been mentioned in more than 2,000 press accounts worldwide, has had a marked impact on mining companies, gold traders, U.N. peacekeepers, and residents of Ituri. Soon after its release, AngloGold Ashanti announced that it would make no further payments to the warlords. The company also launched a high-level investigation of its operations in Congo. Adopting one of our key recommendations, it said that it will support the development of an oversight body to ensure that gold production in Congo avoids funding abusive armed groups.

Similarly, the Swiss company Metalor Technologies said it would no longer import gold from Uganda, a country that has no appreciable gold of its own but is the major route for illegal exports from northeastern Congo. The primary Uganda-based traders have had difficulty finding new customers for their tainted gold and face further investigation by the United Nations.

U.N. officials in Congo have used the report as the basis of their own monitoring of how gold mining fuels rebel weapons purchases. The U.N. also has launched new strategies to stop gold smugglers in conflict areas, including sanctions lists and travel bans.

There are no easy solutions to Congo's devastating crisis, but Human Rights Watch is using different levers to effect change: calling for peacekeeping, urging the arrest and prosecution of warlords, promoting corporate responsibility, and pressing for funds to be cut off from rebel groups. Using these strategies, we are contributing to broad efforts to bring Congo's devastating war to a long-awaited end.



CONGO THE CURSE OF GOLD



A child soldier rides back to his base in Ituri Province. Children are routinely recruited as soldiers in Congo by all sides.

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• Human Rights Watch Offices

LIST OF ALL COUNTRIES REPORTED ON FROM JULY 2005–MARCH 2006

AFRICA

Angola
 Burundi
 Cameroon
 Chad
 Côte D'Ivoire
 Democratic Republic
 of Congo
 Eritrea
 Ethiopia
 Kenya
 Liberia
 Nigeria
 Rwanda
 Senegal

Sierra Leone
 South Africa
 Sudan
 Uganda
 Zimbabwe

AMERICAS

Argentina
 Brazil
 Canada
 Chile
 Colombia
 Cuba
 Ecuador
 Guatemala
 Haiti
 Jamaica
 Mexico
 Peru
 United States
 Venezuela

ASIA

Afghanistan
 Australia
 Bangladesh
 Burma
 Cambodia
 China
 East Timor
 India
 Indonesia
 Malaysia
 Nepal
 North Korea
 Pakistan
 Papua New Guinea

Singapore
 South Korea
 Sri Lanka
 Thailand
 Vietnam



EUROPE/CENTRAL ASIA

Armenia
 Azerbaijan
 Belarus
 Belgium
 Bosnia
 and Herzegovina
 Croatia
 France
 Georgia
 Germany
 Italy
 Kazakhstan
 Kyrgyzstan
 Macedonia
 The Netherlands

Poland
 Romania
 Russia
 Serbia
 and Montenegro
 Slovakia
 Spain
 Sweden
 Tajikistan
 Turkey
 Turkmenistan
 Ukraine
 United Kingdom
 Uzbekistan

MIDDLE EAST/NORTH AFRICA

Algeria
 Bahrain
 Egypt
 Iran
 Iraq
 Israel
 and the
 Occupied Territories
 Jordan
 Lebanon
 Libya
 Morocco
 Oman
 Saudi Arabia
 Syria

Tunisia
 United Arab Emirates
 Yemen



JUSTICE FOR THE VICTIMS

THE ARREST OF CHARLES TAYLOR

When Human Rights Watch's West Africa researcher, Corinne Dufka, thinks about the recent arrest of Charles Taylor, she sees the faces of the victims she has met: parents who saw their children murdered, children who saw their mothers raped, people who were maimed or disfigured, their arms or legs amputated. Taylor, the former Liberian president, was the principal backer of the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) rebel group in neighboring Sierra Leone, which committed these atrocities.

The RUF's heart-breaking cruelty in Sierra Leone was made possible by a decade's worth of financial and logistical backing from Taylor. His capture in March 2006 and his transfer to Freetown, Sierra Leone, to stand trial had people in that war-ravaged city cheering from their rooftops. This ruthless man, once seemingly invincible, was now in custody.



Charles Taylor is arrested and brought to Sierra Leone to face charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity.

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With Dufka based in Freetown during the civil war, Human Rights Watch documented and publicized the RUF's horrific crimes. We then successfully pressed for the creation of a tribunal—what became the Special Court for Sierra Leone—to prosecute the people most responsible. Taylor was at the top of the list. Later, as the Special Court built cases against the accused, Human Rights Watch made its expertise available to the prosecution.

In June 2003, the Special Court unsealed its indictment of Taylor, charging him with war crimes and crimes against humanity. A few months later, as a separate rebel group approached his presidential palace, Taylor fled Liberia for exile in Nigeria.

For the next two years, Human Rights Watch's Richard Dicker and Elise Keppler waged an intensive campaign for Taylor's surrender to the Court. Nigeria's President Olusegun Obasanjo resisted, in part because of the uncomfortable precedent of seeing an African leader prosecuted. Human Rights Watch worked to overcome this resistance by putting Taylor's surrender on the international agenda and making it increasingly difficult for the Nigerian president to avoid the issue.

We trailed the Nigerian president with press releases on Taylor's surrender whenever he traveled outside Nigeria. We urged key players, including the United States and European Union, to press Nigeria on Taylor through letters, meetings, and exchanges with diplomats at opportune moments, such as prior to a Security Council discussion of Liberia. And we worked with a coalition of African and international groups to spur debate on Taylor's surrender in Nigeria and across West Africa.

At one point, Obasanjo began suggesting that he would consider turning over Taylor to Liberia in response to a request from a democratically elected government in Liberia.

At that time, however, there was no such government, but in October 2005, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf was elected president of Liberia. We made the most of this crucial new point of leverage, actively encouraging Johnson-Sirleaf to request Taylor's surrender through numerous press releases, letters, and meetings.

In early March 2006, Johnson-Sirleaf announced that she had requested Taylor's



surrender, partly due to the enormous international pressure she faced on this issue. Obasanjo's bluff had been called, and a week later, Nigeria announced that Taylor could be turned over to Liberia. But in a new wrinkle, he said that Liberia would have to come and pick him up in Nigeria. This virtually invited Taylor to flee, as there was little security around his villa, which we urgently highlighted. He disappeared two days later. But the following day, in a fascinating twist in the case, Taylor was arrested on the Nigerian border with Cameroon.

The circumstances of the arrest still remain unclear, but Obasanjo was scheduled to have a long-sought meeting with President George W. Bush the day after Taylor disappeared. Human Rights Watch, along with allies in Congress and the

Victims of the Revolutionary United Front rebel group in Sierra Leone. They suffered from torture, displacement, forced amputation of limbs, and brutal rape.

© 1999 Corinne Dufka/Human Rights Watch

administration, called for Bush to cancel the meeting with Obasanjo unless Taylor was apprehended. Within hours, he was back in custody.

"Taylor's surrender is a major victory for the people of West Africa who have suffered from horrific human rights abuse at his hands. They deserve to see justice done," Keppler said.



I read your report. I feel shame on me. I have been living in Canada for the last 15 years. I cannot confess this to my kids who were brought up here. When LTTE knocked my door, I could neither hide nor refuse to give money for the same reason you mentioned in the report. Yes I have few family members still left in Jaffna. I don't want to put them into trouble. More than that, when these elderly people end their life, I want to attend their last journey.

—Comment posted on a Human Rights Watch online forum

FUNDING ABUSE

INTIMIDATION AND EXTORTION IN THE TAMIL DIASPORA

In fleeing war-ridden Sri Lanka for the sanctuary of Canada, the United Kingdom, and other Western countries, most Tamils expected to leave behind the threats and intimidation of war. But many people in the Sri Lankan Tamil diaspora live in fear of new intimidation—extortion by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), the main rebel group in Sri Lanka, which has been associated with some 200 political killings over the past four years.

These were the findings of a pioneering Human Rights Watch report, which looked at how Sri Lanka's Tamil Tigers secure their international funding. The project grew out of a related Human Rights Watch report on the LTTE's use of children as soldiers in Sri Lanka. To end this practice, we aimed to mobilize members of the Tamil diaspora, which provides significant political and financial support for the LTTE.

When it became difficult to identify Tamils who would speak out publicly about the Tamil Tigers' abuse of children,

Human Rights Watch's Jo Becker, who led this effort, realized that something was keeping people quiet. And as she looked more closely, she realized that the LTTE was using intimidation and harassment not only to quiet critics but also to force Tamils to give substantial sums of money to the LTTE. Although many Canadian Tamils openly support the Tamil Tigers and willingly donate money through various front organizations, those that refuse LTTE requests risk endangering family members in the West and those still living in Sri Lanka.

Lawyers told Becker about clients who did not support the LTTE but, during visits to Sri Lanka, were forced to contribute large sums to the rebel group. A Toronto businessman said that when he refused a request for \$20,000, the LTTE made threats against his wife and children. In Toronto and London, another city with a large Tamil diaspora community, LTTE members went door to door, repeatedly and persistently, until their targets, worn down by the harassment, would succumb.

In making these dark practices public, Human Rights Watch provoked a firestorm of debate in the Sri Lankan Tamil community in Canada, opening up space to discuss LTTE



tactics that many had been too fearful to acknowledge. This dialogue, Becker says, is important to discredit the LTTE's abusive practices and help people resist its intimidation and extortion.

The report prompted the Canadian government to designate the LTTE as a terrorist organization, which makes it illegal for it to raise funds in Canada. Editorials in five major Canadian newspapers had called on the government to take this action after our findings became public. Law enforcement authorities in Canada are now actively investigating front organizations implicated in our report for collecting funds for the LTTE.

With these reforms, members of the Tamil diaspora—thousands of miles from Sri Lanka's conflict—might finally be able to leave behind violence and fear.

Sri Lankan Tamil Tigers participate in a shooting competition in Kilinochchi.

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After a mortar attack on the town of Kanaan, Iraq, in July 2005, suspects were arrested and taken to Iraqi police headquarters for interrogation.

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UNUSUAL ALLIES

WORKING WITH
U.S. SENATORS AND
THE MILITARY
TO STOP TORTURE

In April 2005, Captain Ian Fishback of the 82nd Airborne Division—a West Point graduate who had served in Iraq—contacted Human Rights Watch to express his frustration over the treatment of detainees at an Army base near Fallujah. After months of unsuccessful attempts to convince government officials to take corrective steps, Fishback told Human Rights Watch of severe beatings and routine torture conducted and authorized by high-ranking Army personnel.

At Fishback's encouragement, two sergeants from his division also came forward. All three said that soldiers were directed and encouraged to beat prisoners and employ such punishments as sleep deprivation, exposure to extreme temperatures, and denial of food and water. All said that superior officers knew about the endemic abuse but did nothing to stop it.



In September 2005, based on the testimony of Captain Fishback and others, Human Rights Watch released the report *Leadership Failure: Firsthand Accounts of Torture of Iraqi Detainees by the U.S. Army's 82nd Airborne Division*. The report was the first of its kind. It presented incontrovertible evidence from American soldiers themselves of the abuses that resulted from the failure to articulate and enforce clear interrogation standards.

At the time, the Bush administration claimed the power to subject detainees to cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment so long as the victim was a non-American held outside the United States. Accompanied by Captain Fishback and armed with the findings of our report, we pressed Congress to support legislation sponsored by Senator John McCain to prohibit such mistreatment against any detainee anywhere in the world.

We worked closely with Senator McCain's office, providing our research, making policy recommendations, and developing a strategy to educate and mobilize members of Congress. We partnered with other NGOs and retired military officers,

who expressed concern that the administration was destroying military professionalism and undermining efforts to contain terrorism. McCain himself met with Captain Fishback, was thoroughly impressed, and referred to Fishback's experience in promoting his proposed law. In October 2005, the U.S. Senate approved the legislation by a resounding 90 to 9 vote. The House adopted it by a three-to-one margin.

The Bush administration fought the legislation tooth-and-nail. Vice President Dick Cheney sought to exempt the CIA. President Bush threatened a veto. The overwhelming, veto-proof majority made these appeals moot.

More recently, Human Rights Watch engaged in persistent advocacy with members of Congress and the Pentagon to ensure that the new U.S. Army Field Manual for Intelligence Interrogations would repudiate many of the abusive interrogation techniques that we had exposed.

Partnering with current and former military officers like Captain Fishback and Senator McCain made a bold statement—that respecting human rights, even in times of a security threat, is fully consistent with the best military traditions.



Women in the Medina (old city) in Tripoli. Women and girls who have been victims of rape, or whose families simply disapprove of their social behavior, are sometimes arbitrarily detained and placed involuntarily in so-called social rehabilitation centers.

© 2002 Paolo Pellegrin/Magnum Photos



CRACKING A DIFFICULT CASE IN LIBYA

Addressing human rights conditions in “closed” countries—those that restrict or prevent human rights monitoring and stifle basic freedoms—is one of Human Rights Watch’s most challenging tasks. This year, we made some progress in Libya, a country that has traditionally resisted human rights scrutiny.

For more than three decades, Libya has been isolated from the world. Recently, however, Libyan leader Mu’ammar al-Qadhafi has sought rapprochement with the West, in part to secure international investment for the country’s vast oil and gas fields. With that need in mind, we approached the Libyan government and asked to send an investigative mission to the country. After lengthy negotiations, the government agreed.

In April and May 2005, we sent our first-ever team of researchers into Libya. We spent three weeks there looking at a broad range of civil and political rights issues as well as the treatment of women, migrants, and refugees. Libyan officials attempted to orchestrate our every move, but members of

our team demanded to have one-on-one, private interviews with prisoners and followed up with research outside the country.

We found that the government in recent years has taken some steps to improve human rights, such as ameliorating prison conditions and releasing some political prisoners, but serious problems remain. The government still bans non-sanctioned political groups, independent media, and nongovernmental organizations. It has detained peaceful government critics and sometimes used torture to extract confessions.

Human Rights Watch documented these abuses in a report that we released at a press conference in Cairo in January 2006. We also presented our findings directly to the Libyan government. After enduring a charade of Libyan anger, hurt feelings, and disappointment designed to convince us to withdraw our findings, we engaged in contentious but ultimately productive meetings with the Interior Minister, the Justice Minister, and members of their staffs.

A key recommendation was that Libya release 131 political prisoners whom we had identified with the help of a Libyan human rights organization sponsored by, of all people, one



of al-Qadhafi's sons. Most of these prisoners had spent more than seven years in detention after unfair trials for nonviolent activities.

Shortly after the release of our report, the Libyan government pardoned all of the political prisoners on the list, as well as an Internet journalist whose arrest we had reported after visiting him in prison.

We released another report this year on Libya's arbitrary detention of women and girls in so-called social rehabilitation centers. Some are victims of rape. Others engaged in social behavior of which their families disapproved. None has committed a crime or is serving a formal sentence. They are detained simply because their families are no longer willing to accept them, and they are perceived to be unable to live on their own. A majority of the women and girls were transferred to these facilities against their will, and they cannot be released without a male suitor or guardian. In a

particularly humiliating spectacle, men seeking wives approach the facility, hoping that the women's desperation will lead to their consent to marriage.

During our meetings with the Libyan government, officials promised to investigate these abuses. Al-Qadhafi's daughter told us that she, too, would look into our findings. The following month, the government established a special panel to study the treatment of all those held in Libyan rehabilitation facilities. It commented extensively on our report. We are currently engaged in a productive dialogue with the government about how to close the facilities and replace them with protective but purely voluntary shelters for women and girls facing violence.



REFORMING THE U.N. COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

It's not every day that governments worldwide compete with each other by producing glossy brochures about how progressive their human rights policies are. But that's what happened this year when 64 states vied for 47 seats on the United Nations' new Human Rights Council. Creating the Council to replace the discredited Commission on Human Rights has been a major priority for Human Rights Watch.

The old Commission had become a victim of its own success. For years, Human Rights Watch worked with this U.N. body to secure condemnations of the world's most abusive governments and end official mistreatment. The reprimands were so powerful that governments with lamentable human rights records flocked to join the Commission to reduce the chance of being criticized. As a result, in recent years, the Commission became renowned for undermining, rather than promoting, human rights.

Human Rights Watch saw no choice but to address the Commission's membership head-on, a controversial proposition at the United Nations, which maintains a belief in the

equality of all its members. Our position that certain governments were so abusive that they did not deserve to serve on the Commission was seen as impolitic, at best. Yet, in op-eds, press conferences, and countless interviews, we articulated the seemingly radical proposition that serving on the Commission should be a privilege available only to governments that show a basic respect for human rights.

"We were never afraid to be blunt," said Joanna Weschler, Human Rights Watch's U.N. Representative from 1994 to 2005. "When I began this work, we were fairly new to the U.N. We were considered upstarts with a reputation for being tough, but that's what it took to effect change."

Over time, our complaints about the Commission's "membership problem" began to resonate and, ultimately, became the accepted wisdom. We were aided by the absurd spectacle of Libya serving one year as chair of the Commission and Sudan serving as a member in good standing at the height of its atrocities in Darfur.

In 2003, U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan appointed a high-level panel to elaborate a strategy for U.N. reform. The panel's December 2004 report recognized the Commission's membership problem but proposed a weak solution. Human



Rights Watch insisted that the U.N. could do better. Annan accepted that view and, in his own report in March 2005, proposed abolishing the Commission and replacing it with a new Council. A year later, after intense negotiations involving extensive advocacy by Human Rights Watch and our international partners, the U.N. General Assembly approved the establishment of the Council and incorporated many of the reforms we had promoted.

For example, members of the new Council are now selected after a competitive vote of the entire General Assembly, rather than through the back-room deals of the past. Rather than obstruct visits by U.N. investigators, as many Commission members traditionally did, Council members must “fully cooperate” with these investigators. Candidates for Council membership must also issue campaign pledges about their prospective performance and “uphold the highest standards” of human rights. These new rules were enough to scare off many of the worst human rights offenders that had previously been members of the Commission, including Sudan, Libya, Zimbabwe, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Vietnam, Nepal, Syria, and Egypt.

The U.N. General Assembly vote to create a Human Rights Council.

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Our work is far from finished. Some abusive governments still managed to secure Council seats, including Cuba, China, Saudi Arabia, and Russia. There is every reason to believe that they will continue to try to undermine the U.N.’s human rights work. This reform of the U.N.’s human rights machinery holds much promise, but Human Rights Watch’s continuing vigilance will still be necessary.



PLAYING IN THE BIG LEAGUES

JOSÉ MIGUEL VIVANCO

Twenty years ago, when José Miguel Vivanco joined Human Rights Watch as a Fellow, he learned a valuable lesson from Aryeh Neier, then Human Rights Watch's executive director: "Don't be afraid to play in the big leagues."

Neier's words stuck with Vivanco. He has devoted his career ever since to pressing the most powerful figures in Latin America to take human rights seriously, eventually becoming the director of Human Rights Watch's Americas Division and one of the most influential and effective rights advocates in the region.

Vivanco, a Chilean lawyer, has met with the head of state of every country in the region. High-ranking officials throughout Latin America, knowing of his influence, routinely accept his requests to discuss pressing human rights concerns. Journalists seek him out daily for his views. Having even hosted his own television news program on rights-related issues on CNN, Vivanco has himself become a widely recognized public figure throughout much of the hemisphere.

Vivanco for example went to Mexico City to meet with President Vicente Fox to discuss a Human Rights Watch report on the human rights accomplishments and deficiencies of the outgoing president. The coverage in the Mexican press was massive, and Vivanco appeared on most of the country's most prominent television and radio shows.

"José Miguel uses a 'substantive stridency' with more elegance than I've ever seen," said Jorge Castañeda, the former foreign minister of Mexico and a member of Human Rights Watch's board. "He can be tough on heads of state, but he manages to maintain good relationships with many of them."

Vivanco has also mastered the use of the press as a tool to build pressure for human rights improvements. His visits to Latin American capitals routinely generate front-page headlines. His press conferences are sometimes streamed live on the national news.

Being a public figure in a politically polarized region like the Americas is not easy. Vivanco has maintained credibility by strictly eschewing partisanship in favor of the neutrality and integrity of Human Rights Watch's research and recommendations. While securing his professional credibility,



Vivanco's principled advocacy has made him a lightning rod for criticism by leaders of the left and right. That is how it should be, says Vivanco.

One of Vivanco's signature accomplishments was persuading Cuban President Fidel Castro to release six political prisoners whose plight Vivanco had raised in a contentious meeting—"a seven-hour shouting match," in the words of Vivanco. The Cuban leader has refused to see him again.

Vivanco was also instrumental in bringing to justice former Chilean Gen. Augusto Pinochet. The case has special resonance for Vivanco, who was twelve when Pinochet overthrew Chile's civilian government. Growing up under a military dictatorship, he said, "marked me for life." Building domestic and international support for Pinochet's prosecution, pressing for his extradition to Spain in 1998, and seeing him face charges while under house arrest in Chile have been some of the most meaningful experiences of Vivanco's career.

Vivanco's outspokenness on the importance of justice and the rule of law has, at times, won him dangerous enemies. After Human Rights Watch issued a report in Bogota in

Executive Director Kenneth Roth with Americas Division Director José Miguel Vivanco (left) and then presidential candidate Felipe Calderón (right)

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the late 1990s on murderous right-wing paramilitary groups allied with Colombian government security forces, the paramilitary leadership denounced Vivanco and posted a death threat on its website. On another occasion, Vivanco angered the Colombian military's top brass when he forced them to acknowledge the existence of a death squad within their own ranks and take steps to dismantle it.

Vivanco makes the ingredients of his success seem simple: He speaks boldly. He maintains strict fairness and impartiality. When necessary, he charms and regales. And the result is that he gets people to listen.

HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH | **Our Volunteer Community**

Berlin · Chicago · Geneva · Hamburg · London

Los Angeles · Munich · New York · San Francisco

Santa Barbara · Toronto · Zurich

The Human Rights Watch Council is a network of committees across 12 cities in Europe, Canada, and the United States. Composed of more than 400 opinion leaders from a variety of backgrounds, the committees are an informed and engaged constituency that is a key part of our defense of human rights. The Council seeks to increase awareness of local and global human rights issues and enlist the public and governments to support basic freedoms for all. Committee members meet regularly to learn about human rights abuses, sponsor policy debates, and generate support for Human Rights Watch and its mission through fundraising, outreach, and advocacy.

THE HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH COUNCIL

BROADENING OUR REACH

The Human Rights Watch Council began in 1989 with the establishment of a small support committee in Los Angeles and has since grown to include eleven other cities in the United States, Canada, and Europe. **Jane Olson**, who co-founded and chaired the California Committee until 2000 and is now the Chair of the Board of Human Rights Watch, reflects on the evolution of the first committee and the challenges ahead for the Council.



downtown and on the east side of Los Angeles, while Stanley had a far-reaching network on the west side as well as years of experience as an activist for Middle East peace and for local issues, as well. So we made a very good partnership.

What is really remarkable is that most of the individuals who were with us at that dinner in 1989 are still involved with the California Committee today. We have been extraordinarily lucky, and it's a reflection of how close Human Rights Watch has remained to its original mission. The regional successes we've had and enduring friendships that committee members have built with one another are very gratifying.

How did the California Committee evolve over the years—what are some of the key milestones you remember?

Well, we began with monthly meetings featuring researchers who had recently returned from the field, as a way to introduce committee members and supporters to the critical human rights issues of the day. This remains one of the core strengths of Human Rights Watch—the quality of the research is outstanding. Anyone new to Human Rights Watch cannot help but be impressed with the incredible skill and courage of our researchers.

It was two years before we had our first Annual Dinner honoring human rights defenders. We had about 150 people at a small banquet facility, and I remember setting the tables as guests were arriving and frantically writing the script as the program unfolded! We managed to pull it off somehow, and the following year, those 150 guests returned and we added another 100 new friends. The Los Angeles Dinner has been growing ever since and in recent years has become the most successful for Human Rights Watch in terms of fundraising.

How were you introduced to Human Rights Watch?

During the 1980s, I was very involved with interfaith efforts to defuse the nuclear arms race and to mitigate the tensions of the Cold War. I worked with civic and religious leaders who were well known in the Los Angeles community, like Rabbi Leonard Beerman, the founder of Leo Baeck Temple, and Dr. George Regas, the rector of All Saints Church. We traveled to the Soviet Union and hosted Soviet citizens in Los Angeles. In 1989, Human Rights Watch started exploring the idea of having a support group in Los Angeles, and I was recruited by one of my fellow activists, Stanley Sheinbaum.

How did the California Committee begin?

Stanley hosted a dinner for about 16 people to introduce Human Rights Watch and ask everyone to help with establishing a local committee. I knew the legal community through my husband Ron and we had many friends

California Committee North Co-Chair Darian Swig addresses Council leaders and Board members at the first annual Council Summit in June 2006.

© 2006 Tara Golden/Human Rights Watch

So much has happened since the Committee's initial years—the opening of our office, the first release of a Human Rights Watch report in Los Angeles, and the Committee growing to 70 members and expanding to Santa Barbara. One of the things I'm most proud of is the Young Advocates group, which was founded in Los Angeles nearly 10 years ago by my daughter Kristin and Tiananmen Square leader Li Lu. It's what gives me hope for the future—we need to engage young adults to help make the world a better place for future generations.

What do you see as the challenges ahead for the Council?

The recent expansion of our committees has been astonishing—just five years ago we only had five committees, and now we have a dozen! So I think we are moving into a phase of consolidating the growth we have achieved,



and deepening our involvement with the cities where we already have a presence. The challenge will be for us to build ways for committees to collaborate and share resources across the Council, for example on advocacy and events, and for committee members to get to know each other and work together regardless of geographic boundaries.

Zurich Committee

Zurich is the most recent addition to the Human Rights Watch Council. In January 2006, the Committee hosted an inaugural luncheon for 150 prominent and interested individuals from the banking capital of the world. Speakers included Human Rights Watch Executive Director Kenneth Roth (l), Zurich Committee Chair Dr. Thomas Bechtler (center), and former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Richard Holbrooke (r).



© 2006 Guy Klement

The Human Rights Watch Council **Outreach**

The Human Rights Watch Council reaches out and brings the work of Human Rights Watch to new and diverse audiences. In the past year, our committees have hosted dozens of public events to promote dialogue on critical human rights issues such as the conflict in Darfur and counter-terrorism abuses.



Cherie Booth QC addresses the topic “Torture: Do the Rules Still Matter,” at Chatham House.

© 2005 Reuters

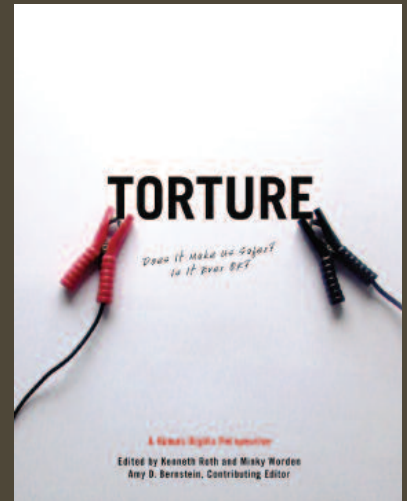
A collection of essays edited by Human Rights Watch and published by The New Press, ***Torture: Does It Make Us Safer? Is it Ever OK? A Human Rights Perspective***, provided a unique opportunity for committees to highlight the pressing need for governments to uphold the absolute prohibition on torture and cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment as set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Upon its publication in October 2005, the New York Committee held a thought-provoking discussion of ***Torture*** at the home of Committee members Peter Bernstein and Amy D. Bernstein, a contributing editor to the book. The evening featured a discussion with Human Rights Watch Executive Director Kenneth Roth and Héctor Timerman, Consul General of Argentina and son of Jacobo Timerman, a prominent Argentine journalist who was imprisoned and tortured by the Argentine junta. More than seventy guests attended the event, including several Human Rights Watch staff who contributed essays to the book, as well as

prominent members of the press, legal, and business communities.

Several months later, the London Committee participated in a series of events to launch the publication of ***Torture*** in the United Kingdom. Cherie Booth QC, wife of Prime Minister Tony Blair and a contributor to the book, addressed the topic, “Torture: Do the Rules Still Matter,” during a speech held at the Royal Institute of International Affairs (Chatham House). She replied resoundingly in the affirmative. Booth spoke to a packed audience of government officials, journalists, lawyers, activists, and Human Rights Watch supporters, emphasizing the need for the judiciary to uphold the rights of individuals against the state. The extensive media coverage focused on her implied and explicit criticisms of U.S. and U.K. policy, with *The Times* noting: “Cherie Booth QC raised the profile of the debate on torture last week when she condemned its use in the war on terror... ”

London Committee members also lent their support to a second U.K. ***Torture*** book launch event, a lively panel debate at the House of Commons chaired by Sarah Smith, presenter for More4 News, in association with the leading television broadcaster, Channel 4. Panelists included Dr. Kim Howells, Foreign Office minister responsible for counter terrorism; William Hague MP, Conservative Shadow Foreign Secretary; Michael Moore MP, Liberal Democrat Shadow Foreign Secretary; and Steve Crawshaw, London Director of Human Rights Watch. The sometimes heated discussion focused on counterterrorism measures, the U.S. government’s use of torture, and the U.K. government’s failure to speak out on abuses. The panelists also questioned the U.K. government’s acceptance of diplomatic assurances regarding the proper treatment of suspects who are transferred to states that are known to practice torture. Hague highlighted the importance of the rule of law and called for stronger public statements from the U.K. government on U.S. abuses.



The Human Rights Watch Council **Advocacy**

Many committees support the work of Human Rights Watch by engaging in advocacy with policymakers and outreach to local or national media. Working in partnership with Human Rights Watch staff, committee members use their local networks and resources to advance the work of the organization and effect policy change.

Los Angeles

CAMPAIGNING AGAINST LIFE WITHOUT PAROLE FOR JUVENILES

In October 2005, Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International issued a joint report on juveniles sentenced to life imprisonment without parole (LWOP) in the United States. The California Committee South hosted a press conference in downtown Los Angeles to launch the report, which was simultaneously released in Detroit, Michigan. The press conference featured Committee members, Human Rights Watch staff, California's Senate majority leader, representatives from Amnesty International, and a reformed juvenile offender.

The report's release sparked the formation of the Campaign to Reform Sentences of LWOP for Juveniles in California, which is being led by Human Rights Watch staff, California Committee members with relevant expertise, and pro bono counsel from the law firm DLA Piper. The leadership of the three California Committees also wrote a letter to Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger asking for a meeting to discuss LWOP for juveniles in California. Committee member Jon Sheinberg personally delivered the letter and the Human Rights Watch report to Governor Schwarzenegger.

In March 2006, select members of the working group met with the governor and his staff for over an hour to discuss life imprisonment without parole and our campaign to end this sentence for juveniles. A few days after the meeting, Governor Schwarzenegger granted parole to James Tramel, a man who had participated in a murder at the age of 17 and served 20 years in prison for his crime. Members of the working group have also been researching the profiles of the 180 juveniles who have been given this severe sentence and educating legislators and the public about the issue.



U.S. Program Director Jamie Fellner addresses the press in Los Angeles with (l to r) California State Senator Gloria Romero; a reformed juvenile offender; and Amnesty International researcher David Berger.

© 2005 Patricia Williams

Geneva

HALTING THE PURCHASE OF TAINTED GOLD FROM THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

The Curse of Gold, the groundbreaking report released by Human Rights Watch in June 2005 (see pp. 4–15), highlights how Congolese gold smuggled to Uganda and then bought by international companies supports armed groups responsible for committing horrific human rights abuses

against Congolese civilians. Human Rights Watch’s Geneva Committee played an indispensable role in conducting advocacy and helping the organization achieve significant policy change.

Committee members facilitated meetings with the Swiss Foreign Ministry, the Ministry of Economy, and federal customs. They also promoted the report’s recommendations with individual companies, including one named in the report. A few days prior to the report’s public release, the

Swiss gold refinery Metalor Technologies announced it would suspend the purchase of gold from Uganda “because of controversy over the origin of the supplies following investigations by U.N. experts and Human Rights Watch.”

The Geneva Committee conducted extensive public outreach on the issue, sponsoring a panel discussion featuring Arvind Ganesan, director of the Human Rights Watch Business & Human Rights Program, and Gerald Pachoud from the Swiss Foreign Ministry. The event was well attended with some 70 people from the business, NGO, press, and diplomatic communities.



The Committee also launched the world premiere exhibition of award-winning photographs by Marcus Bleasdale that expose the link between the exploitation of gold resources and widespread human rights abuses in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The powerful exhibit of some 25 black and white prints, some of which are featured in this report, was displayed for two weeks in a building that houses the Geneva-headquarters of UBS, the largest Swiss bank and the former shareholders of Metalor.

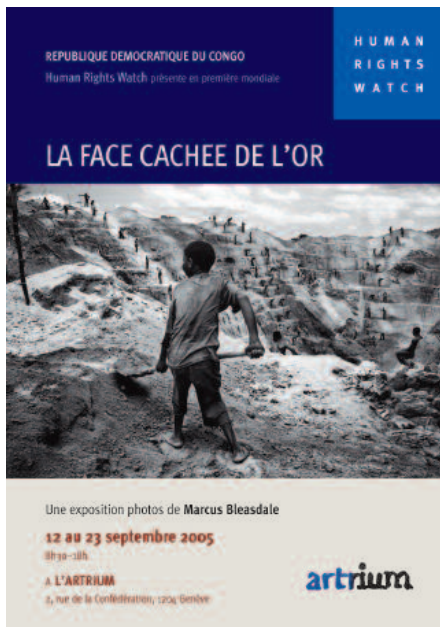
A law calling for increased transparency of gold imports is currently being debated in Switzerland’s Parliament, and the head of the board of directors of Metalor and another Swiss refinery have requested meetings with Human Rights Watch.

(above) Geneva Committee Chair Michel Halpérin welcomes guests at the panel discussion and photo exhibit.

© 2005 Tomasz Surdel

(below) Photographer Marcus Bleasdale.

© 2005 Human Rights Watch



Toronto

EXPOSING THE INTIMIDATION BY THE TAMIL TIGERS

With the support of the Toronto Committee, a Human Rights Watch report on the Tamil Tigers' use of intimidation, extortion, and violence against Tamils living outside of Sri Lanka (see pp. 22–23) had a significant impact in Canada, home to the world's largest Tamil diaspora community.

With the help of media contacts provided by the Toronto Committee, the report received extensive coverage in Canada. Articles ran in almost every major newspaper, and at least five major Canadian papers published editorials. CBC radio's national morning broadcast featured an interview with Jo Becker, the author of the report, and the victim of a Tamil extortion attempt. The day of the release, a pro-Tamil Tiger group held a press conference to denounce the report's findings, which generated a second round of stories in the *Toronto Star*, *Globe and Mail*, and *National Post*, and continued editorials.

The Toronto Committee also raised awareness within the Tamil community in Canada about abuses committed by the Tamil Tigers, and urged government officials to take action against the intimidation and extortion of Canadian residents. Tamil colleagues said that "everyone" in the Tamil community was talking about the report, and that it opened up important new space for dialogue on the Tamil Tigers' tactics.

Three weeks after the release of the report, the Canadian government announced its decision to list the Tamil Tigers as a terrorist organization, banning it and prohibiting private funding of the group.



Child soldiers with the Tamil Tigers, 2004.

© 2004 AP Worldwide



Munich and Hamburg

ILLUMINATING HUMAN RIGHTS THROUGH FILM AND PHOTOGRAPHY

Turning a disused office space in the city center into a spectacular location, the Munich Committee organized an exhibit of photographs on Chechnya by award-winning photographer Stanley Greene. Entitled “Open Wound,” the exhibit depicts the tragedy of the Chechnya conflict over the last 11 years. The opening event, featuring Human Rights Watch Senior Emergencies Researcher Anna Neistat, attracted an audience of more than 100.

In Hamburg, the winner of the 2006 Berlin Film Festival’s Silver Bear Award, *Esmas Secret*, was screened at the Abaton Cinema. Afterwards the audience engaged in a discussion with E.U. Advocacy Director Lotte Leicht, who

(above left) Human Rights Watch’s Sam Zarifi and Marianne Heuwagen engage in a panel discussion with directors Bob Edwards and Rex Bloomstein and programmer Robert Fischer at the Munich Film Festival. © 2006 Patrick Meroth

(above right) Guests view Chechnya photo exhibit. © 2005 Patrick Meroth

described her work for Human Rights Watch during the Bosnian war in the mid-1990s, particularly with regard to victims of systematic rape.

The Munich Committee also presented four selections from the Human Rights Watch Traveling Festival at the 2006 International Munich Film Festival. This was the first time the Munich Film Festival had invited a human rights organization to take part in its program. In addition, the festival sponsored an animated panel discussion on “Human Rights in Film” with filmmakers and Human Rights Watch staff.

Die Hamburger Sektion des Deutschland Komitees von
HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH
 in Zusammenarbeit mit Abaton-Kino
 lädt ein zu einem Preview des preisgekrönten Films

Esmas Geheimnis
 VON JASMILA ŽBANIĆ

Montag, 3. Juli 2006 um 20.00 Uhr

Im Anschluss laden wir zu einem Gespräch
 mit **Lotte Leicht, Direktorin des Brüsseler Büros von Human Rights Watch.**

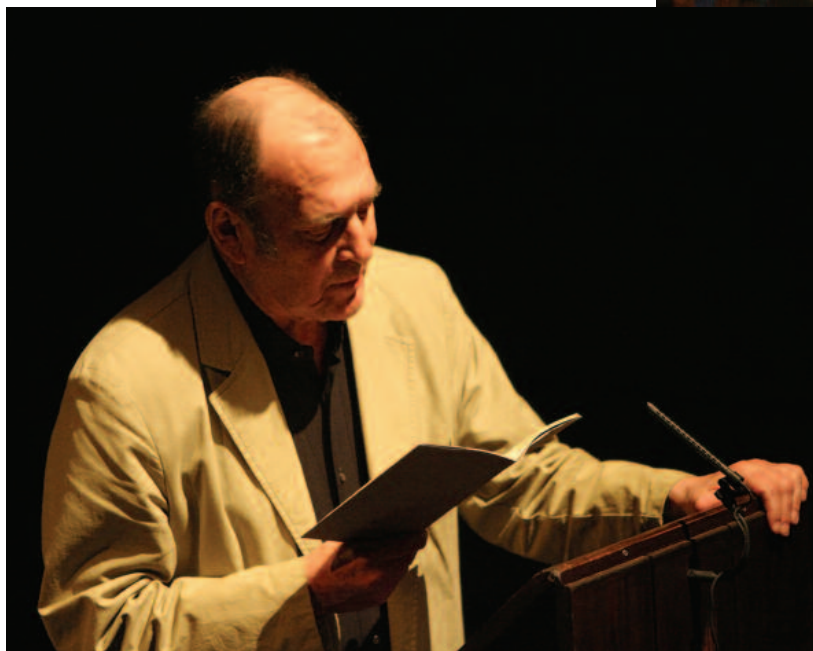
Abaton-Kino
 Allendeplatz 3, 20146 Hamburg

Metrobus 4 & 5 Haltestelle Grindelhof
 Kartenvorbestellung mit dem Vermerk Human Rights Watch
 bitte per Fax unter 040 41 320 310 oder per Email unter office@abaton.de
 Eintritt: €6,50

London

CRIES FROM THE HEART

In June 2006, the London Committee hosted the fourth annual human rights and literature event, *Cries from the Heart*, as part of the 50th anniversary program at the Royal Court Theatre in London. More than two dozen performers gathered for the evening to read testimonials, poems, and prose in celebration and support of the work of Human Rights Watch. The event opened with playwright Tom Stoppard introducing his great friend Václav Havel, former dissident and first president of the Czech Republic, marking the first time they had ever shared a stage. Author Harold Pinter closed the night with excerpts from his 2005 Nobel Prize in Literature acceptance speech. Other performers at *Cries from the Heart* included Brian Cox, Sinead Cusack, Joseph Fiennes, Jeremy Irons, Sophie Okonedo, Miranda Richardson, Rufus Sewell, and the cast of Michael Winterbottom's award-winning film, *The Road to Guantánamo*.



Lemn Sissay (above) and Harold Pinter (left) on stage at the production of Cries from the Heart 2006.

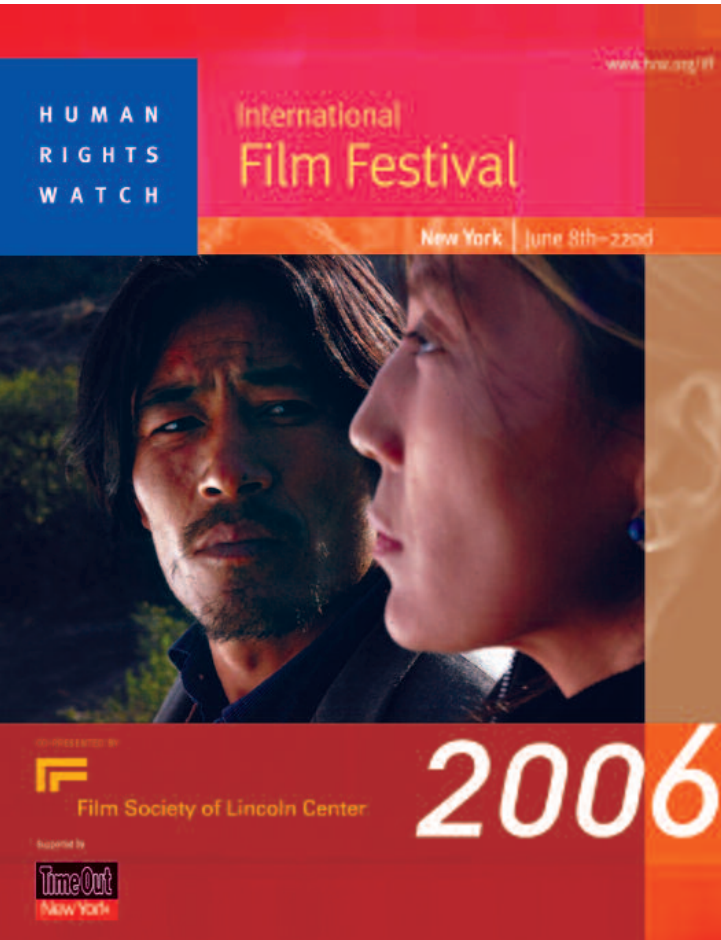
© 2006 Graham Hussey/Solo Syndication

(above left) Sinead Cusack, Artistic Director of Cries from the Heart.

© 2004 Nick Harvey Photography

Film Festival

COURAGE IN FILMMAKING



The Human Rights Watch International Film Festival showcases the heroic stories of activists and survivors through the eyes of courageous filmmakers, putting a human face on threats to individual freedom and giving voice to those who might otherwise be silenced. We bring these films to an international audience and seek to empower viewers with the knowledge that personal commitment can make a very real difference.

2006 marked the 10th anniversary of our film festival in London, which opened on March 15 with *Land of the Blind*, a satirical political drama about terrorism, revolution, and the power of memory. Two-time Oscar nominee Ralph Fiennes plays Joe, an idealistic young soldier who befriends the high-profile political prisoner, Thorne, played by Donald Sutherland. Thorne convinces Joe that the only way to rid their country of dictatorship is with a violent coup. Joe immediately becomes the hero of the revolution; however, he soon realizes that this new regime may be even worse than the previous one.

The London festival's centerpiece was Hany Abu-Assad's Oscar-nominated *Paradise Now*, which follows Khaled and Saïd, two Palestinian childhood friends who have been recruited for a suicide bombing attack on the residents of Tel Aviv. Before several film screenings the Royal Court Theatre staged readings of short plays address-

ing human rights themes. Live performances at the Ritzy Cafe by international musicians provided additional entertainment throughout the ten-day festival.

The New York festival opened to the public on June 9 with *The Camden 28*, a documentary of resistance, friendship, and betrayal played out against the backdrop of the Vietnam War, one of the most turbulent periods in recent American history. We also featured a sneak preview of Michael Camerini and Shari Robertson's 12-part documentary epic, *My American Dream: How Democracy Works Now*. The festival closed with two screenings of *The Refugee All Stars* and live acoustic performances by the band portrayed in the film.

IRAQ IN FRAGMENTS

James Longley, USA, 2006

The Human Rights Watch International Film Festival awarded James Longley the 2006 Nestor Almendros Prize for courage in filmmaking. His film, *Iraq in Fragments*, was a triple award-winner at the 2006 Sundance Film Festival (Documentary Directing, Cinematography, and Editing Awards). *Iraq in Fragments* is more than a singularly accomplished documentary film—it is an astonishing work of art. Culled from 300 hours of footage taken over a two-year period, and presented without scripted voice-over, the film is at once expansive and intimate, harrowing and transcendent. Filmmaker James Longley's documentary feature shadows ordinary Iraqi citizens in three crucial yet fractured regions—Baghdad, the Shiite south, and the Kurdish north—as they struggle through a chaotic present and face an uncertain future. In old Baghdad, buildings burn, U.S. tanks patrol, and an 11-year-old mechanic scurries amid the rubble to please his intimidating boss as neighborhood men angrily indict the Americans. Then, guided by a young leader in Moqtada Sadr's Shiite revolutionary movement, the film proceeds south, where political arguments ricochet across cafés and



meeting halls, and young Shiite men take to the streets to enforce religious laws and stage an anti-U.S. uprising. In the northern Kurdish countryside, where smoke from brick ovens billows in the sky, a farmer, grateful to America for removing Saddam, ruminates on the future of his family and people while his teenage son tirelessly tends sheep and dreams of becoming a doctor. These indelible portraits, painted with strikingly beautiful vérité immediacy and poetic visual juxtapositions, humanize the conflict and illuminate the textures and tensions of a country wrenched by occupation and pulled in disparate directions by religion and ethnicity.

TRAVELING FILM FESTIVAL

SAN FRANCISCO/BAY AREA

This year's Bay Area Film Festival embraced a range of subjects, including Mardi Gras beadmakers in China, Kentucky prisoners performing Shakespearean theater, and the daily life of Baghdad's residents. The festival ran for a month in Berkeley and San Francisco and was attended by enthusiastic crowds of activists, students, and community members. The California Committee North hosted an opening night screening of *The Refugee All Stars*, featuring a discussion with co-director and Bay Area local Zach Niles.



The Refugee All Stars

SANTA BARBARA

With open arms, the city of Santa Barbara, California, welcomed the inaugural Human Rights Watch International Film Festival in May, co-presented by the University of California Santa Barbara (UCSB) Arts and Lectures Program. Santa Barbara Committee members, donors, and supporters attended the Opening Night Reception at the historic Lobero Theatre, which was followed by a screening of the film *State of Fear*. Nearly 500 people attended the screening and stayed for a fascinating discussion with filmmaker Peter Kinoy and UCSB History Professor Cecilia Mendez. The day after, seven documentaries screened at the Victoria Hall Theatre to captivated audiences.



State of Fear

Multimedia Reporting

ON THE FRONTLINES



Joining forces with the most respected and experienced photo and video journalists in the world, Human Rights Watch is broadening the reach of human rights information through broadcast and multimedia reporting.

Photos © 2006 Tim Hetherington



In May 2006, Human Rights Watch investigators Olivier Bercault and David Buchbinder teamed up with photographer and videographer Tim Hetherington to document the spillover of violence from the conflict in Darfur, Sudan, across the border into Chad. Hetherington, an award-winning cinematographer, visually documented Human Rights Watch's findings and was able to secure broadcast of a breaking story exposing a horrific massacre on the United Kingdom's Channel 4, one of the largest television sources for international news with millions of viewers. The segment can be found on the news site's web pages, meaning that the story remains available to countless people worldwide.

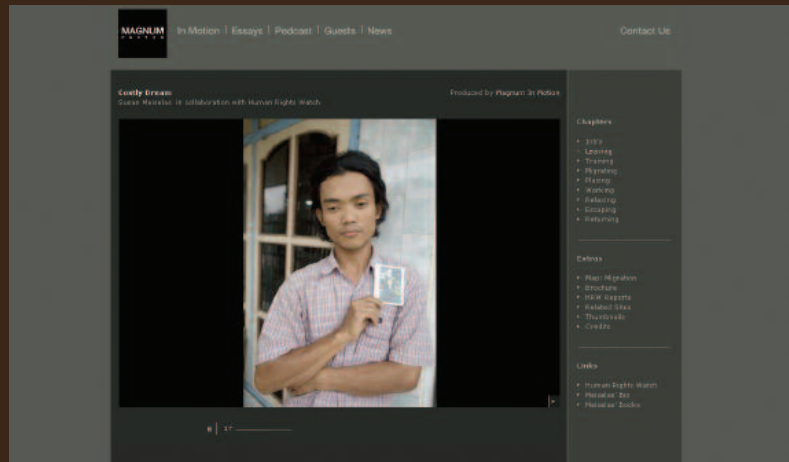


Human Rights Watch and Magnum Photos, a photographic collaborative with an unmatched reputation for integrity and expertise in photojournalism, have also been working together to tell the most important human rights stories of our time. Susan Meiselas, one of the world's most renowned photographers, traveled to Indonesia, Malaysia, and Singapore with Human Rights Watch investigator Nisha Varia to document the heartbreaking stories of domestic migrant workers. In their quest for a better life for themselves and their families, hundreds of thousands of girls and women are made vulnerable to human rights abuse and exploitation by those who control the routes of migration and the daily lives of these workers. On their return, Magnum Photos and Human Rights Watch collaborated closely to produce *Costly Dream*, a multimedia feature premiering on both organizations' websites. With the help of Magnum, we hope to place these multimedia features on prominent news and journalism sites to make our joint reporting accessible to the widest possible audience.





Photos © 2006 Susan Meiselas/Magnum Photos



www.magnuminmotion.com

Working on the frontlines of the human rights cause, we are using all the information tools at our disposal—print, broadcast, and multimedia—to expose the individual struggles and the human stories behind our investigations and to expand the

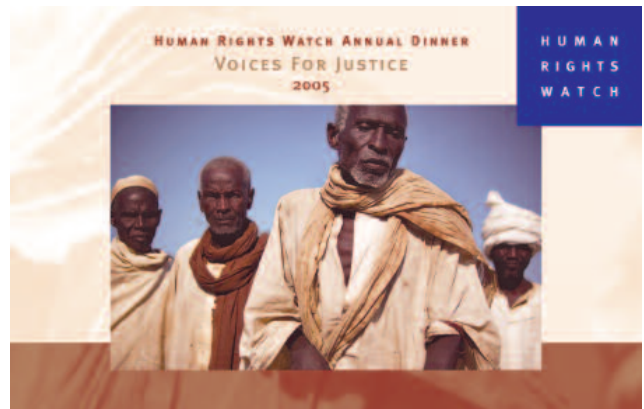
reach of human rights information in the public arena. Together, with the media and the public, we will continue to work to pressure those in power to make change and make a difference.

HONORING HUMAN RIGHTS HEROES

The Human Rights Watch Annual Dinner, **VOICES FOR JUSTICE**, celebrates the valor of individuals who risk their lives to defend the dignity and rights of others.

This year, we honored three brave activists—from Iran, Sudan, and Uganda—whose work exemplifies issues addressed by Human Rights Watch: restriction on civil society in Iran; ethnic cleansing in Darfur; and the plight of women and children living with AIDS in Uganda. Human Rights Watch collaborates with these courageous human rights defenders to create a world in which people live free of violence, discrimination, and oppression.

The 2005 Annual Dinners were a tremendous success, attracting nearly 4,000 guests from a multitude of professional fields and backgrounds. A number of cities hosted the event for the first time, including Munich and Hamburg. Over 200 friends and supporters from media, politics, and society attended the dinners held at the renowned Bayerischer Hof in Munich and the Literaturhaus in Hamburg. On the night between the two events, defenders, staff, and



Dinner photograph © 2005 Ben Lowe

members of the Munich and Hamburg Committees joined a crowd of 100 journalists, NGO partners, and politicians at a reception in Berlin to inaugurate the new Human Rights Watch office there.



Salih Mahmoud Osman addressing the congregation of All Saints Church in Pasadena.



Beatrice Were with Women's Rights Committee Co-Chair Barbara Silberbusch and Vice-Chair Susi Bahat.



Omid Memarian represents a new and young generation of human rights defenders who challenge political repression in Iran. Omid is a weblogger, journalist, and civil society activist who has sought to push the limits of freedom of expression in Iran by working on the Internet. Because of this work, he was arrested and tortured. Following protests from the international community, including Human Rights Watch, Omid was released.

Beatrice Were is a courageous advocate for the rights of women and children affected by HIV/AIDS. One of the first Ugandan women to openly declare her HIV status, Beatrice founded an organization that supports women living with HIV/AIDS and engages in advocacy on behalf of AIDS-affected families. Human Rights Watch has worked with Beatrice to contest recent developments in Uganda's HIV-prevention policy toward an exclusive focus on "abstinence-until-marriage" approaches.

Salih Mahmoud Osman is a lawyer and human rights activist from the Darfur region of Sudan who for twenty years has defended and given free legal aid to people who have been arbitrarily detained and tortured by the Sudanese government. For this work, Salih has himself been arrested and arbitrarily detained. Over the past several years, Salih has contributed immeasurably to Human Rights Watch's investigations of ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity in Darfur.

The North America dinners began in New York and continued on the West Coast in San Francisco, Los Angeles, and Santa Barbara. Arriving in Chicago, the defenders were warmly greeted by Committee members and swept up in the success of the inaugural Chicago Dinner. The evening kicked off with an inspiring drumming presentation by the Muntu African Dance Company and included a heartfelt tribute to Founding Member and former Human Rights Watch Board Chair Jonathan Fanton. In between press interviews with the *Chicago Tribune* and *Sun Times*, the defenders took in an architecture boat tour, sampled Chicago-style pizza, and visited a blues club. The last 2005 Annual Dinner was in Toronto, and the honorees ended their tour with an advocacy trip to Ottawa.



Omid Memarian speaking with Young Advocates at a brunch held in his honor.

all photographs © 2005 Patricia Williams

The Human Rights Watch Council

California Committee South Los Angeles

Founded 1990

Co-Chairs:

**Mike Farrell (Emeritus),
Victoria Riskin,
Sid Sheinberg,
William D. Temko**

Vice-Chairs:

**Jonathan Feldman,
Zazi Pope**

Director: Libby Marsh
Robert Abernethy
Jeri Alden
Elaine Attias
Rev. Ed Bacon
Joan Willens Beerman
Rabbi Leonard Beerman
Terree Bowers
Sarah Bowman
Pam Bruns
Kristin Ceva
Justin Connolly
Geoffrey Cowan
Nancy Cushing-Jones
Peggy Davis
Stephen Davis
Kimberly Marteau Emerson
Mary Estrin
Bill Flumenbaum
Trish Flumenbaum
Eric Garcetti
Steven M. Glick
Barbara Gortikov
Paul Hoffman
Paula Holt
Claudia Kahn
Zuade Kaufman
Barry Kemp
Maggie Kemp
Rev. James Lawson Jr.
Edward P. Lazarus
Shari Leinwand
Emily Levine
Richard J. Lewis
Lorraine Loder
Roberto Lovato
Brian Matthews
Jane Olson
Eric Paquette
Tom Pollock
Deborah Ramo
Jim Ramo
Carol Richards

David W. Rintels
Lawrence D. Rose
Pippa Scott
Marc M. Seltzer
Stanley Sheinbaum
Jon Sheinberg
Lorraine Sheinberg
Tiffany Siart
Barbara Silberbusch
Arthur Silbergeld
Jango Circus
Donald Spoto
Javier Stauring
Richard Verches
Nina Walton
Ellie Wertheimer
Patricia Williams
Stanley Wolpert
Noah Wyle
Tracy Wyle

California Committee South Santa Barbara

Founded 2005

Co-Chairs:

**Phyllis de Picciotto,
Stan Roden
Vice-Chairs:
Nancy Englander,
Nancy Walker Koppelman**

Director: Hava Manasse
Bruce Anticouni
Judy Anticouni
Gay Browne
Tony Browne
Lillian Carson
Michael Colton
Ann Daniel
Carol Doane
Judy Egenolf
Rob Egenolf
Hilal Elver
Richard Falk
Kathie Gordon
Michael A. Gordon
Annette Grant
Dr. Giles Gunn
Lisa Hajjar
Peter Haslund
Sam Hurst
Nancy Lessner
Christine Lyon
Donna-Christine McGuire
Michael McGuire
Laurie McKinley

Laini Melnick
Laurence Miller
Shirley Miller
Jane Olson
Thomas R. Parker
Marina Pisklakova-Parker
David W. Rintels
Victoria Riskin
Barbara Sachs
Rose Shuman
Perry Simpson
Karen Sinsheimer
Bashar Tarabieh
Marsha & Bill Wayne
Rev. Bets Wienecke

California Committee North San Francisco

Founded 2000

Co-Chairs: Orville Schell,

Darian W. Swig

Vice-Chair:

David Keller

Director: Shira Roman
Jeff Anderson
Carole Angermeir
Juliette Bleecker
Jeff Bleich
Joseph & Christine Bouckaert
Rebecca Brackman
Jim Brosnahan
Stuart Burden
Janice Parker Callaghan
Maryles Casto
William K. Coblentz
Chip Conley & Dr. Donald Graves
Peter Coyote
Kim Cranston
Stuart Davidson
Chiara DiGeronimo
Jack Edelman
Lynn Fritz
Diane Foug
Lydia Graham
Elizabeth Rice Grossman
Lore Harp McGovern
Barbara Henry
Tom Higgins
Diane Rice & Spencer Hosie
Sara Anderson Hsiao
Bryan & Nancy Barron
Kemnitzer
Todd Koons
Martin & Pamela Krasney

Derek Lemke-von Ammon
Sally Lienthal
Walter Link
Stephen Mansfield
Nion McEvoy
Robert J. Nelson
Nancy Parrish
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as of March 2006*

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HUMAN
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Financial Information

(April 1, 2005–June 30, 2006)

These are excerpts from our audited financial statements. You may obtain a full copy of the audited financial statements from:
Human Rights Watch
Attn: Finance Department
350 Fifth Avenue, 34th Floor
New York, NY 10118

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

Year ended June 30, 2006

	Unrestricted	Temporarily restricted	Total
Support and revenue:			
Public support:			
Contributions and grants	\$ 18,135,764	\$ 9,547,232	\$ 27,682,996
Special events	3,842,578	-	3,842,578
Total public support	21,978,342	9,547,232	31,525,574
Revenue:			
Investment income, net	424,811	7,531,801	7,956,612
Publications	140,926	-	140,926
Other	184,346	-	184,346
Total revenue	750,083	7,531,801	8,281,884
Net assets released from restrictions and transfers	7,521,638	(7,521,638)	-
Total support and revenue	30,250,063	9,557,395	39,807,458
Expenses:			
Program services:			
Africa	3,512,535	-	3,512,535
Americas	1,124,973	-	1,124,973
Asia	2,347,892	-	2,347,892
Europe and Central Asia	3,077,415	-	3,077,415
Middle East and North Africa	1,859,289	-	1,859,289
United States	986,784	-	986,784
Children's Rights	1,271,053	-	1,271,053
International Justice	954,993	-	954,993
Women's Rights	1,104,683	-	1,104,683
Other Programs	6,090,961	-	6,090,961
Total program services	22,330,578	-	22,330,578
Supporting services:			
Management and general	1,647,223	-	1,647,223
Fundraising	6,207,685	-	6,207,685
Total supporting services	7,854,908	-	7,854,908
Total expenses	30,185,486	-	30,185,486
Change in net assets:			
Unrestricted	64,577	-	64,577
Temporarily restricted	-	9,557,395	9,557,395
Total change in net assets	64,577	9,557,395	9,621,972
Net assets, beginning of year	10,183,255	80,584,938	90,768,193
Net assets, end of year:			
Unrestricted	10,247,832	-	10,247,832
Temporarily restricted	-	90,142,333	90,142,333
Total net assets, end of year	\$ 10,247,832	\$ 90,142,333	\$ 100,390,165

STATEMENT OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES

Year ended June 30, 2006

	Program Services						
	Africa	Americas	Asia	Europe and Central Asia	Middle East and North Africa	United States	Children's Rights
Salaries and related expenses							
Salaries	\$ 1,646,101	\$ 618,807	\$ 1,184,298	\$ 1,513,081	\$ 952,164	\$ 508,717	\$ 698,078
Insurance and employee benefits	238,741	90,433	172,537	231,875	147,757	76,776	102,785
Retirement plans	89,380	38,993	72,356	113,041	47,441	29,804	56,649
Payroll taxes	156,393	46,452	107,943	139,573	76,731	46,050	63,563
Total salaries and related expenses	2,130,615	794,685	1,537,134	1,997,570	1,224,093	661,347	921,075
Consultants' fees	140,037	11,516	139,656	116,085	40,121	57,693	17,033
Publications	64,085	34,535	35,157	68,590	70,602	24,636	37,065
Information Services	11,805	4,418	10,083	14,339	6,977	6,739	5,297
Travel, meals and meetings	255,028	47,649	104,379	142,105	87,739	40,015	37,694
Missions and advocacy	300,042	53,664	152,487	156,897	123,072	43,527	54,039
Outreach	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Special Projects	93,594	–	25,343	137,656	19,444	–	–
Special Events	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Direct Mail	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Rent	239,390	84,131	162,653	211,074	134,609	72,913	93,105
Office expenses	94,203	33,955	65,566	82,506	54,302	29,305	37,421
Postage and delivery	34,135	5,270	11,358	14,003	11,051	6,521	11,591
Telephone and fax	50,550	18,911	34,015	48,168	29,297	12,682	16,630
Professional fees	46,170	16,892	32,657	41,216	27,027	14,639	18,693
Total expenses before depreciation and amortization	3,459,654	1,105,626	2,310,488	3,030,209	1,828,334	970,017	1,249,643
Depreciation and amortization	52,881	19,347	37,404	47,206	30,955	16,767	21,410
Total expenses	\$ 3,512,535	\$ 1,124,973	\$ 2,347,892	\$ 3,077,415	\$ 1,859,289	\$ 986,784	\$ 1,271,053

Program Services				Supporting Services			Total
International Justice	Women's Rights	Other Programs	Total	Management and General	Fundraising	Total	Total
\$ 504,277	\$ 527,690	\$ 2,783,722	\$ 10,936,935	\$ 650,442	\$ 1,787,890	\$ 2,438,332	\$ 13,375,267
76,992	100,374	441,686	1,679,956	129,856	287,573	417,429	2,097,385
22,426	39,544	179,513	689,147	45,753	90,135	135,888	825,035
54,116	49,955	240,345	981,121	81,735	155,795	237,530	1,218,651
657,811	717,563	3,645,266	14,287,159	907,786	2,321,393	3,229,179	17,516,338
48,068	19,367	166,702	756,278	31,959	222,308	254,267	1,010,545
11,713	42,973	110,283	499,639	23,474	5,455	28,929	528,568
3,970	5,277	18,635	87,540	14,739	12,757	27,496	115,036
44,152	36,101	276,963	1,071,825	61,183	196,170	257,353	1,329,178
46,658	87,218	273,801	1,291,405	343	407	750	1,292,155
-	-	715,193	715,193	-	-	-	715,193
1,072	-	152,083	429,192	-	-	-	429,192
-	-	-	-	-	1,089,069	1,089,069	1,089,069
-	-	-	-	-	1,412,670	1,412,670	1,412,670
67,305	93,105	346,731	1,505,016	296,589	460,832	757,421	2,262,437
27,131	37,421	139,678	601,488	119,205	167,608	286,813	888,301
4,610	9,490	34,161	142,190	14,668	61,591	76,259	218,449
13,513	16,065	62,113	301,944	49,524	106,045	155,569	457,513
13,513	18,693	69,616	299,116	59,549	70,562	130,111	429,227
939,516	1,083,273	6,011,225	21,987,985	1,579,019	6,126,867	7,705,886	29,693,871
15,477	21,410	79,736	342,593	68,204	80,818	149,022	491,615
\$ 954,993	\$ 1,104,683	\$ 6,090,961	\$ 22,330,578	\$ 1,647,223	\$ 6,207,685	\$ 7,854,908	\$ 30,185,486

Fiscal Year 2006 Summary Report *cont'd.*

(April 1, 2005–June 30, 2006)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Year ended June 30, 2006

Assets

Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 19,430,247
Short-term investments, at fair value	71,952,432
Contributions receivable, net	7,486,755
Other receivables	1,673,315
Prepaid expenses	179,212
Security deposits	90,465
Fixed assets, net	2,557,951
	<hr/>
	\$ 103,370,377

Liabilities and Net Assets

Liabilities:

Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 1,756,380
Accrued pension expenses	100,931
Deferred rent	1,090,447
Deferred revenue	32,454
	<hr/>
Total liabilities	2,980,212

Commitments and contingencies

Net assets:

Unrestricted	10,247,832
Temporarily restricted	90,142,333
	<hr/>
Total net assets	100,390,165
	<hr/>
	\$ 103,370,377

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Major Reports

July 1, 2005–March 31, 2006



This sixteenth annual World Report summarizes human rights conditions in sixty-eight countries across the globe. It reflects extensive investigative work undertaken in 2005 by the Human Rights Watch research staff, usually in close partnership with human rights activists in the country in question.

A central theme is the growing international leadership void on human rights issues. U.S. credibility has been undermined by rights violations in the fight against terror, European powers have been inconsistent at best, and Russia and China often act with utter disregard for rights. There is an urgent need for enlightened global leadership.

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

Sudan—Entrenching Impunity: Government Responsibility for International Crimes in Darfur

Sudan—Imperative for Immediate Change: The African Union Mission in Sudan

Zimbabwe—Evicted and Forsaken: Internally Displaced Persons in the Aftermath of Operation Murambatsvina

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THE AMERICAS & THE CARIBBEAN

Mexico—The Second Assault: Obstructing Access to Legal Abortion after Rape in Mexico

Peru/Chile—Probable Cause: Evidence Implicating Fujimori

Cuba/United States—Families Torn Apart: The High Cost of U.S. and Cuban Travel Restrictions

Colombia—Displaced and Discarded: The Plight of Internally Displaced Persons in Bogota and Catagena

Colombia—Smoke and Mirrors: Colombia’s Demobilization of Paramilitary Groups

ASIA

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THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

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GENERAL

United States—Leadership Failure: Firsthand Accounts of Torture of Iraqi Detainees by the U.S. Army's 82nd Airborne Division

United States—The Rest of Their Lives: Life Without Parole for Child Offenders
Human Rights Watch World Report 2006

Impact

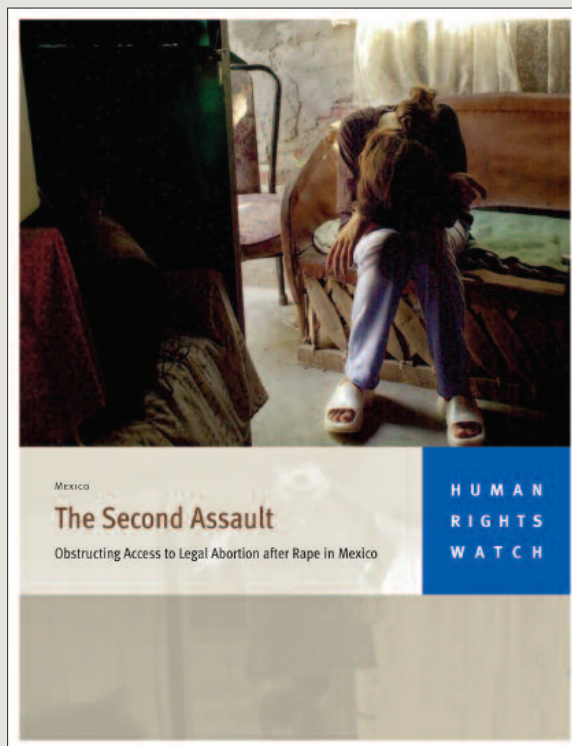
Mexico: Ensuring Reproductive Rights for Rape Victims

As part of a new focus on women's reproductive rights in the Americas, Human Rights Watch conducted research in Mexico, which has approved one of the most "liberal" abortion laws in the region (abortion in general is illegal, but there is an exception for rape victims). Nevertheless, we found, pregnant rape victims who seek access to legal abortion are ignored, insulted, threatened, and even forced to carry the imposed pregnancy to term. Our investigative mission, conducted in several states in Mexico, measured Mexico's "progressive" laws against restrictions in practice.

Human Rights Watch wrote a report on our findings, *The Second Assault: Obstructing Access to Legal Abortion after Rape in Mexico*, and released the report to tremendous local, regional, and international media attention. We were granted unprecedented access to the federal government and conducted numerous meetings to press our advocacy goals. The release of our report coincided with the settlement of a landmark case under the auspices of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, in which the Mexican government recognized that a teenage rape victim's rights had been infringed when she was denied a legal abortion. We have good reason to believe that the knowledge of our report's release was instrumental in catalyzing these negotiations.

The government also has told us that it intends to use our report as the basis for an analysis of abortion practices in the country. The Human Rights Office of the Foreign Ministry has distributed our report to all relevant ministries in the thirty-two independent jurisdictions in Mexico, with instructions to study the report and take its findings into account.

List current as of March 2006



Human Rights Watch and photographer Marcus Bleasdale continue to work together and partnered to expose the plight of tens of thousands of children living on the streets in Congo because of war and displacement, the HIV/AIDS epidemic, urbanization, and the collapse of state institutions. In spring 2006, Human Rights Watch released the report, *What Future? Street Children in the Democratic Republic of Congo*, along with a body of photographs that accompanied the publication. This photograph from the series won a 2006 *World Press Photo Award* in the Daily Life Singles category.



A boy takes a shower at a center for street children in Kinshasa.

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