



## Annual Report over 2013

### 1. Vision, Mission, Goals and Activities

#### *Our Vision:*

A world where the power of information and communication is harnessed in the service of human rights.

#### *Our Mission:*

To strengthen the capacity of human rights organisations to manage and communicate information, enhancing their effectiveness and credibility.

#### *Our Goal:*

To ensure that human rights organisations have the tools, knowledge, skills and supporting services to use their information resources effectively.

#### *Our Activities:*

1. To develop tools and techniques for monitoring, information management and communication and
2. To provide these to human rights organisations and national human rights institutions.
3. To build the capacity of the human rights community to master and adapt these tools and techniques to their specific needs through training and other activities.
4. To support human rights organisations to set up and strengthen their information systems.
5. To improve human rights advocacy and reporting techniques.
6. To expand human rights outreach and network capacity.
7. To provide a centre of excellence on methods and techniques for human rights.

### 2. Capacity building / services

#### *List of projects completed or ongoing in 2013*

<b>Beneficiary</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Continent</b>	<b>Type of proje</b>
Commission Nationale Indépendante des Droits de l'Homme (CNIDH)	Burundi	Africa	CaseBox
African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC)	Ethiopia	Africa	website

Civil Society Forum ACERWC	Ethiopia	Africa	website
Institute for Human Rights and Development in Africa (IHRDA)	Gambia	Africa	website, Case Analyser
African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR)	Gambia	Africa	website
Network of African National Human Rights Institutions (NANHRI)	Kenya	Africa	digital commu database of N to handle com
SADC Tribunal	Namibia	Africa	website
Ligue des Droits de la personne dans la région des Grands Lacs (LDGL)	Rwanda-Burundi	Africa	Website
Sudan Social Development Organization (SUDO) and UK branch	Sudan-United Kingdom	Africa	OpenEvsys, c building
African Institute of International Law	Tanzania	Africa	website
East African Court of Justice (EACJ)	Tanzania	Africa	website
Pan-African Lawyers Union (Palu)	Tanzania	Africa	website, mem management,
East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project (EHAHRDP)	Uganda	Africa	OpenEvsys, w
Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights (ZLHR)	Zimbabwe	Africa	CaseBox
Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum	Zimbabwe	Africa	website
Center for Justice and International Law (CEJIL)	Argentina-United States	Americas	Caselaw analy Casebox
Colibri - People in Need	Cuba-Czech Republic	Americas	Intake form, O public website
Coordinadora Nacional de Derechos Humanos, Peru (CNDDHH)	Peru	Americas	OpenEvsys
Community Initiatives for Visiting Immigrants in Confinement (CIVIC)	United States	Americas	OpenEvsys
Asylum Access	United States-Ecuador-Tanzania	Americas	OpenEvsys, C
Global Human Rights Defence (GHRD)	Netherlands	Asia	OpenEvsys
Asian Federation against Disappearances (AFAD) network	South- and Southeast-Asia	Asia	OE - hosted, synchronisatic
Forum-Asia	Thailand	Asia	OpenEvsys
Opendata.ge - Institute for Development of Freedom of Information (IFID)	Georgia	Caucasus	Website, data CaseBox
Hafiza Merkezi	Turkey	Europe	CaseBox - sel public website
International Protection Center	Russian Federation	FSU	Casebox
Lawyers for Constitutional Rights and Freedoms - Jurix	Russian Federation	FSU	Website
Public Verdict Foundation	Russian Federation	FSU	Casebox
Committee against Torture	Russian Federation	FSU	Casebox
SOVA Center for Information and Analysis	Russian Federation	FSU	Databases an

International Protection Centre (IPC)	Russian Federation	FSU	CaseBox
Public Verdict Foundation (PVF)	Russian Federation	FSU	Casebox
SOVA Centre	Russian Federation	FSU	Website hostin
Kharkiv Human Rights Protection Group, Legal Strategies Center, and Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union	Ukraine	FSU	Casebox
equalit.ie	Ireland	Global	various securi
CCPR Centre	Switzerland	Global	Caselaw analy
Docip	Switzerland	Global	Capacity build partners, Ope
International Commission of Jurists (ICJ)	Switzerland	Global	Archive, Webs
Interights	United Kingdom	Global	Website
Bahrain Center for Human Rights (BCHR)	Bahrain-Denmark	Middle East	OpenEvsys
Arabic Network for Human Rights Information (ANHRI)	Egypt	Middle East	Casebox, Wet
Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies (CIHRS)	Egypt	Middle East	Secure docum task managen
Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights (EIPR)	Egypt	Middle East	Casebox
Support for Information Technology	Egypt	Middle East	Website migra
Women and Memory Forum	Egypt	Middle East	Website
Tamkeen	Jordan	Middle East	Casebox
Al-Haq	Palestine	Middle East	Document ma system, Digita archive
Palestinian Center for Development & Media Freedoms (MADA)	Palestine	Middle East	Web module f and visualizing against journa mail training
WattanTV	Palestine	Middle East	Website imprc and backup
Women's Centre for Legal Aid and Counselling	Palestine	Middle East	Casebox
Yemen Human Rights Network (YHRN)	Yemen	Middle East	OpenEvsys, V Constitution pl
Open Society Justice Initiative	United States	North America	Casebox

### 3. Tools

#### a. *OpenEvsys*

OpenEvSys is a free and open source database application developed by HURIDOCS that human rights NGOs can use to:

- Record human rights violations and store related documents
- Browse the history of a particular victim or perpetrator
- Analyse trends and patterns of abuse
- Track their interventions by status, impact, deadline, etc.

During 2013, several improvements were made in the OpenEvsys database, resulting in the launch of three new versions:

- versions 2.0, with improved user interface, dashboard, creation of graphs and maps, in May 2013
- version 2.1, configuration of fields and terminology lists within the database, conditional formatting, in June 2013
- version 2.2, improved security through Captcha and Google Authenticator, menu modification, edit labels for terminology lists, personalization of login page and reports, in October 2013

Continuous advice, support and training were provided to various organisations which are regularly using or interested in trying out OpenEvsys.

A particularly interesting project is Colibri, which is a combination of three different tools:

- an, easy, secure form for registering information on cases of violations by local activists in Cuba, which can then forward this information via e-mail to an OpenEvsys database
- an adaptation of the OpenEvsys database with one single format
- a public database <http://www.eyeoncuba.org> which provides basic, public information on main elements of violations cases (location, types of violations, gender of victim, type of perpetrator)

Also the website <http://zorlakaybetmeler.org/> contains data extracted from an OpenEvsys database.

The OpenEvsys user's manual and installation manual were updated.

#### **b. CaseBox**

CaseBox is designed to support the needs of litigation NGOs which are looking for an integrated and web-based application to manage their caseload.

CaseBox allows litigation NGOs to:

- have an integrated solution to store documents related to court cases securely online
- manage calendars and court deadlines
- work collaboratively on court submissions
- retrieve relevant caselaw from both their internal archive of cases and external caselaw databases.

In 2013, Pilot projects on CaseBox were undertaken with NGOs in the Russian Federation, Ukraine, the United States and Burundi.

Casebox is an open-ended system that can also be customized for other purposes, including project management, and management of information on clients and services provided for them.

In order to test its various features and make suggestions for improvements, the HURIDOCS Secretariat is itself using Casebox for the management of its projects.

#### **c. Caselaw Analysers**

The Caselaw Analyser is a web-based system for human rights litigators to research caselaw in order to prepare their cases. It allows them to easily browse inter-related decisions, to quickly access the primary case law for a given type of violation, to highlight and comment relevant

sections of a decision, and to share their commentary with their colleagues and work collaboratively on case research.

The Caselaw Analyser for the African human rights system is a common project between the Institute for Human Rights and Development in Africa (IHRDA), based in the Gambia, and HURIDOCS, while the CaseLaw Analyser for the Americas is an initiative of the Centre for Justice and International Law (CEJIL) and HURIDOCS. Technical support for the Caselaw Analysers is provided by KETSE.

Continuing discussions were held about a common search tool for the various Caselaw Analysers. A meeting among the various organisations to be involved in this project took place in Guatemala.

#### **4. Grants – Revenues**

HURIDOCS' major donors in this period are the Open Society Foundations, the Oak Foundation and the MacArthur Foundation.

A two-year grant for support to ten organisations in Egypt, Jordan and Palestine was approved by OSF at the end of 2013 on basis of a needs assessment undertaken earlier that year. A two-year project was started in January 2014, which seeks to provide tailor-made support with regard to information management for each of these groups.

The three year grant of the MacArthur Foundation in relation to HURIDOCS' work in Africa has allowed HURIDOCS to develop the website of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, sites of sub-regional human rights institutions plus several Websites for regional and national NGOs. HURIDOCS provided advice, support and training to the organisations concerned, so as to enable them to maintain and improve their own websites.

MacArthur funding for Africa project comes to an end in June 2014. An application for continuing support has been submitted for "DIY Caselaw Analyser", allowing organisations to create their own faceted search tools for their collections of documents.

There were ongoing discussions with the Oak Foundation regarding a possible extension of their support.

A considerable part of HURIDOCS' resources is obtained by providing advice, support and capacity building to paying clients.

For detailed information about the income sources and expenditure see the Audited accounts over 2012 and 2013.

#### **5. Performance**

HURIDOCS has recognized the need to improve its procedures with regard to client relations and management of tool development.

An agreement was made between equalit.ie and HURIDOCS on a project to strengthen HURIDOCS' procedures and skills with regard to security issues.

At the end of 2013, there were DDOS attacks against the HURIDOCS Website and sites hosted by HURIDOCS. HURIDOCS seeks to achieve more clarity and structure with regard to the hosting services that HURIDOCS is providing for different types of clients.

## **6. Staff**

Friedhelm Weinberg joined HURIDOCS as Communications Officer in November 2012. Through this engagement, HURIDOCS managed to considerably enhance the visibility of its activities.

At the end of 2013, the HURIDOCS staff was expanded as follows:

- Sujata Rane joined HURIDOCS in November 2013 as Head of Client Projects. The purpose of her appointment is to build the capacity of HURIDOCS' staff, through supervision and coaching with regard to management of software development, project work, support to beneficiaries and hosting management. She had previously worked with HURIDOCS on a project for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in Nairobi, Kenya, where she is based.
- Basheer Al-Zoughbi was engaged for needs assessment mission to Egypt and Palestine and became Project Manager for Middle East Project funding by OSF. He is based in Bethlehem, Palestine and was previously an intern with HURIDOCS
- Katherin Machalek, former staff member, has returned to HURIDOCS, with responsibilities related to fund-raising and donor relations, and management of projects in Russia and the Ukraine. She is based in New York, United States.

## **7. Governance**

The HURIDOCS Board, called Continuation Committee, continued to guide the organization and provide substantial support to the Secretariat.

There were discussions to review the structure of the membership and to include new members.

## **8. Networking**

HURIDOCS provided regular updates on issues related to information management in the field of human rights through its Website and mailing list, which counts about 10,000 subscribers.

HURIDOCS Staff members participated in various events, including meetings of United Nations organs related to human rights and the Open Knowledge Conference in Geneva. The main purpose was to make contacts with like-minded stakeholders and make HURIDOCS activities more visible.