



REDRESS

Ending Torture, Seeking Justice for Survivors

annual
report
2017

The Redress Trust Limited
Board of Trustees' Report & Financial Statements
For the year ended 31st March 2017

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messages

from the Chair and Director

Message from the Chair, Paul Lomas

I am delighted to present REDRESS's 2017 Report. It has been a time of some considerable change and progress for REDRESS over the past year but 2017 finds it in good form, busy and with strong plans for the future.

First, I would like to pay tribute to my predecessor, Sir Emyr Jones Parry, who stepped down at the beginning of the year. He chaired REDRESS for 9 years with great wisdom, insight and humanity and will be sorely missed, both as chairman and personally. He goes with our best wishes for the future in all his other activities. I am extremely grateful to him to have been able to take the chair with REDRESS in such robust form.

I am honoured to be chair of REDRESS. I have long admired its mission, the quality of its work and the reputation that it has for dealing with some of the most important and hideous issues that our world has to face. Sadly, we say goodbye to three trustees as their other interests take them abroad or limit the time that they have available. We have benefitted greatly from their support and they, too will be missed, although we hope to be working closely with two of them in the future in their other roles.

A highlight of the past year has been the opening of REDRESS in The Hague. Although the current size of the operation is small, we expected it to grow and are convinced that having a presence in "The International City of Peace and Justice" will be highly beneficial to REDRESS's objectives.

Our close relationships with the courts and institutions that are there, together with the community and expertise in the city, will enhance REDRESS's relevance and access to funding and expertise. We were fortunate to host a successful conference on 9 June in the Peace Palace, following our opening conference in September.

One would have hoped that the world now acknowledged that torture was never acceptable and that perpetrators should never have impunity. Terrifyingly, that is not the case.

Indeed, the current wave of nationalism, 'strong man politics', armed conflict and extreme anti-terrorism policies, are, whether deliberately or as a side effect, creating some cultures that are favour, or ignore, torture. REDRESS sees increases in, and increased risks of:

- torture as a means of repression, particularly in war zones;
- targeted torture at human rights defenders (including anti-torture campaigners);
- legitimising the use of torture in anti-terrorism activities; and
- using national security exceptions to provide impunity.

REDRESS's three year strategy comes to an end in 2017 and we are currently reviewing our strategic objectives for the next few years, taking account of these developments and how the organisation can adapt to address them.

We will maintain our focus of addressing these issues from the viewpoint of the survivors (or victims) of torture and will continue to fight for their rights wherever we can.

In the pages that follow, you will read of the remarkable work done by remarkable people on behalf of those survivors. On behalf of the Trustees, I want to thank Carla Ferstman, REDRESS's director, and her outstanding team for all their work over the year under relentless pressure: there is always more to be done that REDRESS can do, but they do a fantastic job of bridging the gap.

I also want to thank all of those who have helped REDRESS this year: funders (without whom nothing would be possible); partner organisations, academics, journalists and friends. Your contributions are deeply appreciated and we will continue to call upon your support in the future.

Message from the Director, Dr Carla Ferstman

Internationally, the year was characterised by significant challenges, contrasts and contradictions. Protracted conflicts involving immense human suffering continued unabated in places like Syria and torture continued to be used as a feature during armed conflicts, including sexual violence against women, children and men.

Many governments fail to protect adequately the vast numbers of people crossing borders as a result of conflict and oppression. Significant changes in the political landscapes of several countries have made vulnerable many fundamental human rights safeguards and have led to the rejection by some of regional and international institutions, and the downplaying by some of international law as a civilizing force.

The resurgence of nationalist and xenophobic tendencies in several countries has negatively impacted on protections for minority groups and other vulnerable persons and has led to violent crackdowns against those seen as opposing the ruling regimes, particularly human rights defenders.

There has been an increasing tendency to criminalise human rights work and expression, freeze bank accounts, impose severe administrative reporting restrictions with a view to shutting organisations down, and significantly, resort to physical violence and intimidation, including torture. Some of these challenges have exposed the difficulty for international institutions to provide a sufficiently weighty counterbalance to the exercise of brute power by States.

At the same time, new openings in political space signalled the potential for positive change, particularly when fuelled by ordinary citizens simply seeking to reclaim their rights. The transition to democracy in places like the Gambia shows all that is possible as does the victory of the victims of Hissène Habré, whose long fight for justice had finally been vindicated.

Within REDRESS, we have had to bid farewell to Sir Emyr Jones Parry, who has stood down as Chair of the Board after a long and very productive nine years in the post. We are so grateful to him for his friendship, his steady leadership and guidance and for his commitment to REDRESS' mission. At the same time we are delighted to welcome Paul Lomas as our new Chair.

Paul, a former senior partner at Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer and one of the founding trustees of the Bingham Centre for the Rule of Law, brings vital experience, commitment and rigour to the role and is working with trustees and staff to refresh our efforts to meet the current challenges we face in the fields of torture prevention and justice for survivors.

Under his guidance, we have established in September a new, independent Dutch arm in The Hague. REDRESS Nederland was formally established in September 2016 and is an important part of our strategy to meet the goals of our mission.

I am honoured to continue to lead the committed and talented team at REDRESS, to work with some of the most dynamic civil society groups around the world and to have the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of some of the most vulnerable people who have suffered torture, one of the most horrific abuses of human rights.

This year we bid a sad farewell to Kevin Laue, who has retired after fifteen years with REDRESS, but we hope he and others who have gone on to other things, join the cadre of REDRESS alumni who continue to engage in the work.

A review of this Annual Report will show that despite the immense challenges, we are making progress on behalf of our clients in their fight for justice and accountability. This year, our work was significantly advanced by new partnerships with lawyers, civil society groups, prosecution services and academics in a range of countries, all of which have helped to press forward the cause of victims of some of the most heinous abuses.

We have continued to expand our work to cover the new contexts in which torture occurs: new focuses this past year include the torture and migration nexus, and the due diligence obligations of the state to protect individuals from violence perpetrated by non-state actors. Some of our partners have come under increasing threat in countries like Turkey, Egypt, Sri Lanka and Kenya which has required us to increase security protocols and provide an array of assistance.

The importance of public messaging on the prohibition of torture has become pressing in the light of nationalistic, xenophobic tendencies in the politics of a growing number of countries, in order to forestall a weakening of the standards against torture.

Impunity remains a deep-seated problem in many countries where we work but with the combined efforts of REDRESS and other organisations, it is a problem that can be confronted and progressively can be overcome. We are making important progress, but there is much more that we need to do.

I am grateful to the Chair and all the trustees of REDRESS for their support, to REDRESS' founder and Honorary President Keith Carmichael and to the staff for their daily efforts to realise this vision. REDRESS is fortunate to work with a range of lawyers, academics, students and volunteers all of whom are invaluable to our work. Thank you, as well, to the range of foundations, institutions, governments and individuals who continue to fund our work.

about REDRESS



Legal Advisors Kyra Hild and Judy Oder cheer the REDRESS runners during the London 10K Run.

REDRESS seeks justice and reparation for survivors of torture and related international crimes. It carries out litigation, research-based advocacy and capacity building, designed to strengthen the conditions necessary to end impunity for torture and afford survivors redress.

REDRESS prioritises the interests and perspectives of survivors in all aspects of its work. The highest priority in decisions and interventions is given to promoting survivors' well-being and the avoidance of further traumatisation. Interventions target levers for change for maximum impact, at the individual level (with survivors directly), at community, national and/or regional or international levels. Our unique positioning is our survivors' focus and experience of working directly with survivors.

We bring this perspective to broader campaigns on the promotion of victims' rights, adding value by working collaboratively with international and national organisations and grassroots victims' groups. Collaborating with like-minded organisations is at the centre of REDRESS' ethos.

More can be achieved when forces are joined. Sharing of expertise within and between cultures and continents is a value that REDRESS seeks to promote as a goal in and of itself and as a means to maximise impact.

Vision: A World without Torture

Mission: To seek justice for survivors of torture; to combat impunity for governments and individuals who perpetrate it; and to develop and promote compliance with international standards

Casework: We provide direct legal assistance to individuals and communities that have suffered torture and related international crimes in securing their rights. We provide legal advice, litigation support and representation to survivors in all regions of the world.

Advocacy: We seek to positively influence policies, practices, laws and standards to enable justice and reparation for survivors.

Capacity Building: Working in partnership with like-minded organisations, REDRESS provides technical assistance and support to civil society organisations and networks as well as national authorities around the world to combat torture and help survivors.



programmes

We work along four broad programme areas to advance our mission:

1 Casework:

To provide direct legal support to torture survivors to obtain justice and redress

2 Justice in the Context of Mass Victimisation:

To obtain justice and redress for torture survivors in situations of violent conflict, or in those societies emerging from, or having emerged from, a period of mass human rights violations

3 Influencing National laws and institutions:

Working collaboratively to promote strong national legal frameworks and institutions that reflect international standards and are enforced in practice

4 Promoting International Standards:

To promote and strengthen international standards and regional and international institutions that reflect survivors' rights to justice and reparation

1 Casework

REDRESS has approximately **100** open cases files related to about **1,000** torture survivors. We have a diverse caseload covering the different contexts in which torture occurs and forms of victimisation in an array of countries:

Americas:

Chile; Mexico; Panama; Peru; United States of America

Asia:

Bahrain; India; Iran; Nepal; Philippines; Saudi Arabia; Sri Lanka; Turkey; United Arab Emirates; Uzbekistan

Middle East and North Africa:

Algeria; Egypt; Libya; Morocco

Sub-Saharan Africa:

Cameroon; Chad; Democratic Republic of the Congo; Ethiopia; Gambia; Kenya; Nigeria; Rwanda; Sudan; Tanzania; Uganda; Zimbabwe

Europe:

Cyprus; France; Lithuania; Spain; Switzerland; Ukraine; United Kingdom

Helping torture survivors is central to REDRESS' mandate. We provide wide-ranging legal advice and support to survivors to help them achieve adequate and effective remedies. We pursue prosecutions, take civil claims for compensation, pursue consular support and the exercise of diplomatic protection, take administrative claims against public bodies relating to the failure to carry out diligently their mandates and provide support to survivors to access national human rights commissions and/or other inquiry processes operating in the country.

REDRESS also uses its good offices to assist survivors to make contact with government officials, whether to obtain apologies or other measures or to assist them to access primary support.

Internationally, REDRESS uses regional and international courts and related quasi- and non-judicial mechanisms when local remedies fail. In addition to direct litigation work, REDRESS provides support and advice to local and/or international lawyers on points of law and the development of legal strategies and frequently acts as amicus curiae (friend of the court) on areas in which it has expertise.

These cases are important to the individuals and communities directly concerned; they also serve the additional purpose of advancing the rule of law and the fight against torture worldwide. As conveyed to an independent evaluator of a REDRESS project involving casework,

“Some of these people feel intimidated or feel they are too minor, or too poor and can’t stand up to the system. This gives them dignity and courage, tells them they are still human beings and deserve some basics. Otherwise, for most of them – with some of these incidents and offences committed against them- their life is cut short prematurely.”

REDRESS' cases concern women, men and child survivors of torture, committed during relative peace and in times of conflict. The survivors can be suspects of ordinary crimes, tortured to obtain confessions. Or, they may be human rights defenders, protesters and others tortured to quash dissent, or persons from marginalised ethnic, religious or other minorities tortured to keep them in submission. Torture is indiscriminate. It affects all strata of society.

Some case highlights in 2016-17



Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe with her husband Richard and daughter Gabriella.
Photo by Richard Ratcliffe



Democratic Republic of the Congo

REDRESS is supporting S.A. in her complaint against the DRC authorities, currently pending before the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights. S.A. is a Congolese woman who was raped by a member of the military during the armed conflict in Eastern DRC.

Her perpetrator was prosecuted and she was awarded damages against the State, but has not received any payment until today, because of the bureaucracies and inaccessibility of the procedures to enforce domestic civil judgments against the State in DRC.

If the African Commission rules in favour of S.A., it would mean a formal acknowledgment of the shortcomings of the Congolese justice system and this may prompt the Congolese authorities to step up their efforts to redress S.A. and other victims of sexual violence by the Army during the conflict.



Iran

The UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention has ordered Iran to immediately release Kurdish human rights defender **Zeinab Jalalian**, who is believed to be the only female political prisoner currently sentenced to life imprisonment in Iran.

The UN body found on 26 May 2016 that her arrest and subsequent eight-year detention have been arbitrary, that she was subjected to an unfair trial and that she has been subjected to torture and ill-treatment at the hands of Iranian authorities. It also found that the Iranian government should provide her compensation.

REDRESS has continued to work with Richard Ratcliffe, the husband of **Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe**, a dual UK-Iran national who, when visiting her family in Tehran with her two-year-old daughter Gabriella, was arrested on 3 April 2016 at Tehran's Khomeini Airport as she was about to return home to the UK.

Since then she has spent at least 45 days in solitary confinement and has been sentenced to five years in prison following a secret trial. In October 2016, the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention called on Iran to immediately release her. REDRESS is also assisting Nazanin's husband with issues concerning diplomatic protection.

REDRESS is also supporting the case of an Iranian man, **XX** who was beaten and attacked by family members in Iran as a punishment for his sexual orientation. He was eventually arrested and subjected to physical and psychological torture to coerce a confession. After his release he fled Iran.

He applied for asylum in Cyprus, but the application was stalled and thus he eventually left Cyprus and applied for asylum in the UK. He was removed to Cyprus, despite his expressed fears that Cyprus would remove him to Iran. On arrival in Cyprus he was detained and deported to Iran the following day.

He was arrested on arrival, kept in solitary confinement and tortured. He was eventually released and managed to leave the country and made his way back to the UK where his asylum claim was eventually accepted. REDRESS is helping with a claim in Cyprus regarding his refoulement from Cyprus to Iran. The case is important because it exposes a wide pattern of failings in the refugee claims determination system.



Libyan activist Magdulein Abaida pictured before she was forced to go into exile.
Photo by Magdulein Abaida.



Libya

On 8 March 2017, REDRESS filed a complaint to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women on behalf of **Magdulein Abaida**, a women's rights activist from Libya who after being tortured in 2012 was forced to flee the country.

On 6 June 2016, Lawyers for Justice in Libya and REDRESS filed a complaint with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights regarding the case of **two sisters of Tawerghan descent** who – alongside the older sister's husband and two-month-old daughter – were arrested near Derna in February 2012.

During their ten-day *incommunicado* detention, the sisters were subjected to torture and ill-treatment at the hands of members of the Abu-Salim Martyrs Brigade, an armed group affiliated with the Derna branch of the Supreme Security Committee.

The members of the armed group subjected the sisters to this treatment for the purposes of obtaining information and a confession from them, and to punish them for their perceived allegiance to the former Gaddafi regime. The older sister's husband remains missing to date.



Combatant Status Review Tribunal at Guantanamo Bay.
Photo by Christopher Mobley.



Lithuania, United States of America

Mustafa al-Hawsawi, detained in Guantanamo Bay, faces a military commission trial and the death penalty for his alleged and disputed role of helping to finance the 11 September 2001 attacks. The redacted summary of the US Senate Intelligence Committee report indicates that he was subjected to water dousing and/or water-boarding, sleep deprivation, ‘rectal rehydration’ and/or rectal exams conducted with ‘excessive force’ which resulted in chronic haemorrhoids, an anal fissure, and symptomatic rectal prolapse.

The report singles out Mr al-Hawsawi as one of a number of individuals who were detained under the CIA’s rendition and secret detention programme ‘despite doubts and questions surrounding [his] knowledge of terrorist threats and the location of senior al-Qa’ida leadership’.

REDRESS is working to clarify the role of a number of States including Lithuania where he is believed to have been detained and interrogated prior to being ‘rendered’ to Guantanamo Bay. We are working to ensure that those responsible for his torture, illegal detention and transfers will be held accountable and to prevent similar incidents from occurring in the future.

This year, following extensive legal proceedings in Lithuania, we brought Mustafa al-Hawsawi’s claim against Lithuania to the European Court of Human Rights. Also this year, the US Government finally authorised him to undergo surgery to remedy some of the serious injuries he sustained while in CIA custody.

REDRESS has highlighted Mr. al-Hawsawi’s urgent need for access to medical care in various fora, including through a letter to several UN Special Rapporteurs in February to request urgent action in respect of Mr. al-Hawsawi’s worsening medical situation.

In May, five UN Special Rapporteurs requested the U.S. Government to provide observations, including to “provide information concerning the measures taken to ensure the physical and psychological integrity of Mr. al-Hawsawi, and in particular what additional remedial measures have been taken to ensure his access to adequate medical care taking his serious medical conditions into account.”



Héctor Casique with his mother Yaskade Fernández.
Photo by Yaskade Fernández.



Mexico

Héctor Casique was severely tortured by police who arrested him and tried to get him to confess to a triple murder charge. His mother and others who have tried to assist him have been under constant threats. REDRESS submitted a detailed brief to the Mexican court entertaining Hector’s criminal prosecution on the inability to use evidence obtained by torture.

REDRESS is also assisting Hector’s family with a claim before the Inter-American Commission. Hector was eventually released from detention and charges dropped, but tragically, Hector was murdered by armed thugs in Quintana Roo, who are believed to have been working with local authorities. Hector’s family is committed to continue to fight for justice for Hector and REDRESS is committed to support them in these efforts.

We are also working with **Olivier Acuña Barba**, a Mexican journalist who on account of his reporting on corruption issues was arbitrarily arrested and subsequently tortured along with two of his neighbours by agents of the elite corps of the ministerial police (PME) of Sinaloa, Mexico. We presented final submissions on admissibility to the Inter-American Commission and are awaiting their decision to move the case to the merits.



Prem Prakash was one of eight youths disappeared in the village of Manau.
Photo by AF-Nepal.



Nepal

REDRESS and Advocacy Forum received a positive decision from the UN Human Rights Committee in the case concerning the **disappearance and presumed murder of eight youths** who were taken away from their homes by the military in the middle of the night in April 2002.

The UN Human Rights Committee said what happened amounted to torture, given the anguish and stress caused to the families by the disappearances; they didn’t receive sufficient explanation about the circumstances surrounding their alleged deaths, nor have they received their remains.

In a strongly worded ruling, the Committee determined that Nepal was required to conduct a thorough and effective investigation into the disappearances and provide the families with detailed information about the results of its investigation; if the eight youths are dead, locate their remains and hand them over to their families; prosecute and punish those responsible; provide any necessary and adequate rehabilitation and treatment to the families and effective reparation, including adequate compensation and appropriate measures of satisfaction.



Luis Alberto Rojas was raped for his sexual orientation.
Photo by Luis Alberto Rojas.



Peru:

The Inter-American Commission held an oral hearing in December 2016 in the case of Luis Alberto Rojas Marin, a young homosexual who was raped in prison in Peru. Luis Alberto was able to give testimony by videolink which was the first opportunity he had to address a judicial body about what had happened to him.

As was reported by an independent evaluator of a REDRESS project involving casework, ***“At first the case was difficult to move forward but as the Organization of American States recognised systemic problems of discrimination based on sexual orientation in the region, a dedicated Unit was set up in 2011 which led to a Rapporteur on the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and intersex persons (LGBTI) being established in the Commission. This meant it was keen to take the case forward as a precedent. Although there is not yet a report on the merits from the Commission (this is expected in mid-2017), the case has the potential to establish important jurisprudence and there is evidence that this case has already helped to put the issue on the political agenda both domestically in Peru and regionally in Latin America. As well as national and regional interest, REDRESS’ communications strategy has succeeded in giving the case international media coverage highlighting the importance of the issues.”***

Nepal must also take steps to prevent similar violations in the future. Nepal agreed to increase compensation owed to the families following the UN's decision.

On 19 April 2016, Advocacy Forum filed an application on behalf of the victims’ families with the District Administration Office of Bardiya, Nepal, for the provision of additional relief (NPR 100,000) to be paid as compensation for the enforced disappearance and death of their relatives.

On 24 June 2016 REDRESS and Advocacy Forum filed a submission on the implementation of the Human Rights Committee’s ruling on reparation, to the UN Human Rights Committee and the Government of Nepal. The submission highlighted the lack of implementation to date and made concrete suggestions on the way forward to achieve implementation.

It was based on extensive consultations with the relatives of the eight disappeared persons. Following the submission, REDRESS met with representatives of the Government of Nepal’s Permanent Mission to the United Nations in Geneva to further discuss implementation.



Turkey

MA is a Kurd from Bingol who was tortured in 2003. He and other young men were subjected to constant harassment from Turkish police in his village. He was detained by soldiers and held for interrogation. During this time he suffered beatings, falanga and electric shocks and was deprived of sleep.

He was forced to sign a confession with one of the officer’s machine guns in his mouth. He was charged with aiding and abetting the PKK. He was eventually released and escaped to the UK where he obtained asylum.

REDRESS sought assistance from Human Rights Foundation Turkey to lodge a claim in Turkey on MA’s behalf. A civil claim for torture was pursued and went through an appellate procedure in Turkey, though no criminal complaint was opened. MA was awarded a nominal sum in compensation.

Although the Turkish Constitutional Court found that his rights to a proper inquiry into the allegations of torture had been infringed it said it could not make a finding on whether he had been tortured. REDRESS and Human Rights Foundation Turkey have filed a petition with the European Court of Human Rights which is pending.

The European Court is being asked to find that on the evidence before Turkish Courts (including medical evidence) there was a failure to provide him with an effective domestic remedy for the alleged torture.

REDRESS has been following the cases of human rights defenders from partner organizations such as Human Rights Foundation Turkey that have been arbitrarily detained, charged under security legislation and at risk of torture and ill-treatment. REDRESS is monitoring several trial proceedings of activists and has attended in person several trial proceedings and is working to identify and pursue legal strategies in light of the crackdowns.

Some of our amicus curiae filings

Amicus curiae filings are legal briefs that provide analysis to courts to assist them in their decision-making. These submissions are not normally written to support a particular outcome or a party to a case; they are designed to provide the court with specialist information that the court would not otherwise have access to, based on a well-recognised expertise. REDRESS has regularly been granted permission to file briefs in an array of cases falling within its mandate.



Opening of the trial against Jean Pierre Bemba at the ICC.
Photo by ICC-CPI



Central African Republic

REDRESS submitted observations on reparation in the Jean-Pierre Bemba Gombo case at the International Criminal Court, following his conviction for crimes against humanity and war crimes committed in Central African Republic.

One of the issues raised by our submission is whether in light of the number of potential beneficiaries, their location and the current humanitarian context in which they find themselves, the particular circumstances of this case warrant any modification or clarification of the principles on reparations adopted in the Lubanga case, the first ICC case in establishing principles and procedures to be applied to reparations. REDRESS also provided an analysis on ways in which the Trial Chamber may monitor and assure the proper implementation of those principles.



Chad

On 29 July 2016, the Extraordinary African Chambers (EAC) in Senegal ruled on reparations for victims in the Hissène Habré case, a pivotal moment for thousands of victims who suffered under his brutal rule as president. REDRESS, who has been providing technical assistance to Chadian lawyers representing victims during the reparations phase, welcomed the judgment ***“as a step in the right direction, a clear recognition that victims’ suffering should be redressed by more than words”***.

REDRESS has urged the EAC to take all necessary steps to identify any assets that Habré may have had that can be used for reparation. We have also urged Chad and the international community to contribute to the victims’ fund that will be used to implement the reparations award.

Habré’s conviction is already a form of satisfaction for many victims, but it should be accompanied by adequate compensation and rehabilitation for those who were permanently marked by the horrible torture suffered by them or their families.

On 8 February 2017, REDRESS submitted an amicus curiae intervention on reparations in the case of Hissène

Habré before the Appeals Chamber of the Extraordinary Africa Chambers (EAC). Our submission discussed the obligation to provide full and effective reparation to the victims in the case in line with international standards on reparations.

We highlighted that, in line with the provisions of the EAC Statute and international standards, the beneficiaries of reparation should not be limited to the civil parties in the case but should extend to anyone meeting the definition of victim under the EAC Statute.

Furthermore, we submitted that given the gravity of the crimes committed and number of victims involved in the procedure, financial compensation alone is not sufficient to provide meaningful reparation. In our intervention, we also addressed at length the establishment of a Trust Fund as provided for in the EAC’s Statute and that has been created by the African Union in July 2016.



Democratic Republic of the Congo

The International Criminal Court convicted Germain Katanga of aiding in the commission of a crime against humanity (murder) and four counts of war crimes (murder, attacking a civilian population, destruction of property and pillaging) in relation to attacks on Bogoro village in the East of the country. The Court has been called upon to order reparations for the victims.

REDRESS was granted leave to intervene in the case, and we submitted observations on factors that the judges should consider when determining an appropriate reparations award, such as the appropriateness of group or individual reparations, and how courts have dealt with challenges that may impact the effectiveness of reparation programmes, including those relating to a geographically dispersed group of victims, limited funds available for reparation, and the identification of victims.

Many aspects of our intervention were reflected in the order on reparations issued as part of the appeals judgment on reparations of 24 March 2017.



Gambia

On 18 April 2016, the Court of Justice of the Economic Community of West African States Case (the ECOWAS Court) granted REDRESS leave to intervene in a case concerning, among other things, the torture of journalists in the Gambia.

On 19 May 2016, we submitted our amicus curiae brief to the ECOWAS Court. Our submissions focused on the particular vulnerability of journalists to torture and related abuses; the nature and applicability of the absolute prohibition of torture; States' positive obligations to protect journalists from violence, including torture and other prohibited ill-treatment and the right to for tortured journalists in forced exile.



Russia

In the Shestopalov case, the applicant was arrested at the age of 17 and taken for questioning concerning the rape of a former female school classmate. While in custody, six or seven police officers handcuffed him and tied his head to his legs while he was sitting on the floor. They beat him, sat on his back, and strangled him with two sticks and by putting a plastic bag over his head. The victim of the rape subsequently gave a written statement that the applicant was not the person who raped her.

The applicant and his mother complained about the treatment that the applicant received while in custody. An investigation was undertaken and the applicant identified a police officer as one of those who had ill-treated him. However, the criminal proceedings were suspended on the grounds that it was not possible to identify those responsible and that all possible investigation measures had been carried out. The applicant was awarded a small amount of compensation by local courts.

The European Court of Human Rights granted REDRESS permission to intervene in the case as a third party. REDRESS filed its comments in the case on

18 February 2014, setting out international standards and comparative jurisprudence on the effectiveness of investigations, including the requisite level of evidence required to prosecute, where several law enforcement agents are alleged to have been involved in the commission of acts of torture or other internationally prohibited ill-treatment; and factors to be taken into consideration when determining the adequacy of damages awarded by national bodies in cases of torture and other internationally prohibited ill-treatment.

In its judgment, the European Court has reaffirmed States' obligation to fully investigate allegations of torture and other prohibited ill-treatment, and to provide adequate compensation to victims. The Court held that it is not enough to only provide compensation, as it would allow State officials to commit torture with virtual impunity.

Similarly, it is not sufficient to only investigate, and not to provide compensation. The two must form part of victims' right to redress. The Court awarded the claimant 48,550 Euros plus tax in compensation.



Switzerland

REDRESS submitted an expert brief to the UN Committee Against Torture in support of a torture survivor and asylum seeker who faced ill-treatment if returned to Italy. The case was brought by the Centre Suisse pour la Défense des Droits des Migrants, with REDRESS providing an expert report on specific issues linked to the obligation on States to ensure that individuals are not deprived of much needed rehabilitation treatment.

In our brief, we submitted that it is well-established that the subjection of asylum seekers to adverse living conditions (including lack of access to appropriate health care), either in the country in which they are seeking asylum or on return to a third State, can amount to inhuman and degrading treatment.

REDRESS and the World Organisation Against Torture on 23 February 2017 intervened before the Grand Chamber of the European Court of Human Rights in the case of **Nait-Liman v Switzerland**. The case concerns a claim for damages brought by Nait-Liman, a torture survivor from Tunisia, which Swiss courts refused to accept for lack of jurisdiction.

In our intervention to the Grand Chamber we submitted that States increasingly recognise that their courts have jurisdiction over harm occurring in another country if there is no other reasonable forum accessible to the victim and if there is sufficient connection between the case and the forum where the victim seeks jurisdiction.

We also argued that potential practical difficulties such as the administration of evidence must not be invoked to refuse to hear a case filed under the principle of civil universal jurisdiction.



United Kingdom

REDRESS together with Amnesty International intervened in a case which arose from an official visit by **Egyptian General Mahmoud Hegazy** – who is alleged to be responsible for torture and other atrocities in Egypt – to the UK in September 2015.

REDRESS, together with Amnesty International, intervened in the case, out of concerns that the case could open the door to alleged torturers coming to the UK under the cloak of a special mission immunity granted by the UK Government.

On 5 August 2016, in the first English case in which a Court was asked to make a finding on the role of customary international law with respect to a “special mission” visit to the UK, the Divisional Court ruled that customary international law requires States to secure, for the duration of a “special mission” visit, personal inviolability and immunity from criminal jurisdiction for the members of the “special mission”. The case is under appeal.

REDRESS, together with Amnesty International, the International Commission of Jurists and JUSTICE, intervened before the Court of Appeal and Supreme Court in the claim brought by **Abdul-Hakim Belhaj and his wife Fatima Bouchar**, who allege that British officials were involved in their abduction and illegal transfer to Libya, under the CIA rendition programme, in 2004.

They filed a civil suit in UK courts against those they hold responsible. In December 2013, the High Court struck out the lawsuit, holding that since the claim called into question activities of a foreign state on its own territory the act of state doctrine precluded the court from hearing the case.

The Court rejected the UK Government’s argument that state immunity (a principle of international law by which a state is protected from being sued in the courts of other states) operated as a bar to the claim.

Our intervention focused on the UK’s international obligations on the right of access to a court and the right to an effective remedy and reparation and the absolute prohibition of torture. The Supreme Court issued its judgment on 17 January 2017, holding that the UK Government could not rely on the legal doctrines of sovereign immunity and foreign act of state to escape claims concerning its own involvement in breaches of human rights by foreign governments. This judgment has now paved the way for the substance of the complaint to be heard by UK courts.

Justice in the Context of Mass Victimisation

Countries currently facing, or emerging from, situations of massive human rights violations face particular challenges in affording justice and redress to victims. The context in which torture occurs, the scale of the crime, who perpetrates it, why and how it is perpetrated and who are the victims can also differ significantly from that of relatively peaceful or stable environments.

Furthermore, in an immediate post-conflict context, there may be distinct opportunities to progress justice and accountability. However, transitional justice approaches may not always address the deep-seated causes and consequences of victimisation. Also, the political context in which such measures are developed may result in ad hoc or partial responses which may not always result in effective and adequate reparation.

REDRESS' focus on justice for victims is vital to bring to the table, given that this perspective is often absent and rarely articulated in the wake of major societal conflict.

This year, our work focused on three main areas:

Victims' rights in national legal frameworks

REDRESS worked with partners in a range of countries to encourage governments and others to ensure that legal frameworks applicable to victims of mass crimes incorporated best practice standards relating to victims' rights. We worked with the international crimes division of the Ugandan High Court and comparable criminal justice institutions in Kenya and Central African Republic to strengthen victims' access to the procedures.

We provided written input and training to justice actors to help them progress their work on behalf of victims. In **Uganda**, we provided input to the internal Rules of Procedure of the **International Crimes Division**, which allow victims to participate in criminal proceedings – a novelty in Uganda. REDRESS has also provided training to the two victims' counsels and has assisted them in the development of a case strategy. We have also provided miscellaneous support to help the counsels to advance their work.



Roundtable with judges and other actors from the International Crimes Division in Uganda.

In **Kenya**, our training work has focused mainly on the implementation of the Victim Protection Act in 2014, which allows victims to participate in domestic criminal proceedings. As of today the attempts to set up an International Crimes Division have been stalled.

However, the Office of the Public Prosecution has created a specialized unit to deal with international crimes which is currently working with the Director of Criminal Investigation. REDRESS trained members of this unit on victim rights and participation. As part of the training, REDRESS introduced US and South African experts to explain how victims' provisions were successfully introduced in those common law jurisdictions.

We also facilitated workshops with local stakeholders including victims to create a space for reflection and to generate local inputs into the development of the procedures for specialised courts and reparations programmes. For instance, on 12-13 July 2016, in collaboration with Avocats Sans Frontières, we organised a two-day workshop in **Bangui, Central African Republic** that brought together civil society, legal and international actors.

Representatives from the UN and ministries were invited to address participants and update them on ongoing developments relating to the Court and participants then discussed key advocacy points they wished to take forward. Participants drew up recommendations for the next stages of making operational the Special Criminal Court.

A key recommendation made by participants was the need to ensure strong victims' rights in the Special Court's mandate, including in its upcoming Rules. In October 2016, REDRESS, jointly with the Bangui Bar, organised a workshop for civil society, lawyers and magistrates in Central African Republic to discuss how the Rules of the Special Court could better reflect international standards on victims' rights.

With respect to **Uganda**, in September 2016, REDRESS and Avocats Sans Frontières organised an International Conference on Reparations in Uganda to help advance discussions on reparations for mass atrocities committed against Ugandan civilians.

REDRESS has also supported victims of conflict-related sexual violence in Uganda in seeking reparations by consulting them about their demands and conducting advocacy for these demands. On the international level, REDRESS supported local partners in engaging with the Universal Periodic Review process on this issue which will assess Uganda's human rights record.



A victim of rape in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.
Photo by Gwenn Dubourthoumieu/IRIN

Justice for sexual violence in conflict

The massive scale problem of sexual violence in conflict continued to be a focus for REDRESS. We worked with partners in Kenya, Uganda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo to support victims with their cases before the courts, provided training to victims' advocates on supporting justice responses and advocated for more sustained responses from policymakers and institutions in the region.

In October 2016, REDRESS, in collaboration with partners from Kenya, Uganda and Sudan, organised a panel discussion on "Reparation for Conflict- Related Sexual Violence in Africa". The event took place in the framework of the NGO Forum in advance of the 59th Ordinary Session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights.

At this session, the African Commission celebrated the Year of Human Rights with a particular focus on the rights of women. REDRESS and partners, the Coalition on Violence Against Women (COVAW), FIDA Uganda, Independent Medico-Legal Unit (IMLU), Kenyan Section of International Commission of Jurists (ICJ-Kenya), Physicians for Human Rights (PHR), Refugee Law Project, the African Centre for Justice and Peace Studies, published a briefing paper in advance of the event with concrete recommendations to State Parties and the African Commission on how to ensure redress for victims of sexual violence in conflict.

Advocacy before the International Criminal Court

The International Criminal Court is a key mechanism with the potential to address some of the worst modern-day atrocities and afford justice to the many victims. REDRESS has a longstanding interest in the progressive development of the International Criminal Court as an institution and its capacity to deliver justice for international crimes.

REDRESS continues to coordinate the Victims' Rights Working Group, an informal global network of experts and advocates working to promote justice for victims at the ICC, operating under the auspices of the NGO Coalition for the International Criminal Court. This year, our work on the International Criminal Court focused on:

Prosecutorial discretion:

REDRESS, the Coalition Ivoirienne pour la Cour Pénale Internationale (CI-CPI) and Lawyers for Justice in Libya (LFJL) submitted comments to the International Criminal Court Prosecutor (OTP) on her new draft policy on how to select and prioritise cases. The submission followed a one-day consultation meeting with civil society groups on the Draft Policy organised by the OTP in coordination with REDRESS as well as a separate workshop organised by REDRESS with partners in Ivory Coast. The submission highlighted the importance for the OTP to adequately communicate on how it would apply the criteria set out in the draft policy. It also called on the OTP to ensure cases were not indefinitely "de-prioritised" and to spell out the steps that would need to be taken to address reasons why some cases may be given less priority.

Legal representation for victims:

We continued to advocate for the Court to develop appropriate structures for legal aid for victims that reflect the particularities relating to representing hundreds if not thousands of victims as part of a single team structure.

Reparations:

REDRESS has a longstanding interest in the International Criminal Court's procedures and practices for affording reparation to victims. We continue to engage with the Registry and the Trust Fund for Victims to progress their policies and implement reparations for victims. This year we issued a policy paper on the Court's progress with reparations to date, offering a number of suggestions as to how the reparations process could be sped up and made more meaningful for victims. We also intervened in the Bemba and Al Mahdi cases on reparations with a view to encouraging the Court to take into account the vast practice from other courts and tribunals when developing its own practice.

3 Influencing National Laws and Standards

REDRESS' global anti-torture work

REDRESS works to ensure that international standards relating to the prohibition of torture and reparation for survivors of torture and related international crimes are applied at the national level. We strive to inform and influence policies and practices through expert analysis and recommendations on a range of thematic issues linked to the prohibition of torture and survivor's rights.

REDRESS works to overcome obstacles to justice in countries where torture is endemic by ensuring that international standards are applied at national level. REDRESS achieves this objective through partnerships with local organisations; developing joint strategies that involve capacity building for civil society as well as government actors; advocacy towards national policy makers and litigation to seek justice and reparation for survivors and establish useful precedent for later cases.

REDRESS has formal partnerships with key organisations in Europe, Sub-Saharan Africa, Central and South America, Middle East and North Africa and Asia which serve as cornerstones to REDRESS' work.

REDRESS and partners organised an international conference that took place during the 8 and 9 of September in Nairobi, Kenya. The purpose of the two-day conference "Fighting torture at home: the implementation of States' international obligations at the domestic level" was to provide experts and practitioners from different countries an opportunity to discuss and exchange experiences litigating torture cases domestically as well as before regional and international human rights mechanisms.

The meeting, which included participants from Argentina, Chile, Croatia, Egypt, Jordan, Kenya, Libya, Mexico, Nepal, Peru, Sudan, Uganda, Zimbabwe was part of a three-year project funded by the EU in which REDRESS and partners from Peru, Kenya, Nepal and Libya looked to develop strategies with partners, lawyers and civil society groups to ensure torture survivors' access to criminal and civil remedies; to advocate for ratification and domestic implementation of international treaties and principles; and to build the capacity of civil society and national actors to enforce anti-torture standards.



REDRESS and partners during our international conference in Nairobi.

This year, we placed significant emphasis on strengthening legislative frameworks to prevent torture:

- REDRESS and Lawyers For Justice in Libya published comments on **Libya's Draft Constitution 2016** and sent an open letter to the Drafting Constitutional Assembly. The commentary set out Libya's international human rights obligations for ensuring the absolute prohibition of torture; provided a comparative analysis of constitutional anti-torture protections from around the world; examined Libya's constitutional history regarding the prohibition of torture; and made specific comments and drafting suggestions to ensure that the absolute right to be free from torture and related guarantees are safeguarded within Libya's future constitutional document.
- REDRESS and Legal Resources Consortium in Nigeria on 23 February 2017 released the **Technical Commentary on the Anti-Torture Framework in Nigeria**. The Commentary provides a detailed assessment of Nigeria's current anti-torture legal framework in light of Nigeria's obligation to prohibit, prevent and punish

torture and to provide redress to victims. It identifies current shortcomings in Nigeria's anti-torture bill and offers concrete recommendations to stakeholders for amendment and adoption of a comprehensive bill. REDRESS and l'Organisation contre la torture en Tunisie produced a similar analysis of the **anti-torture framework in Tunisia**, released in March 2017.

We also worked with local partners to train and build the capacity of lawyers, journalists, civil society groups and government officials on methods to prevent and respond to torture allegations.

- We produced two manuals this year to help civil society groups to pursue legal challenges on behalf of survivors of torture: one manual focused on East Africa and the other on the MENA region.
- We launched a new handbook on 26 June, UN International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, to support journalists to report on torture in depth, regardless of their experience. The handbook aims to encourage increased reporting on torture and



Workshop in Myanmar on documenting sexual and gender-based violence.

support to journalists in the vital role they play in raising awareness about torture, and to "break the silence" for a crime that thrives behind the scenes.

We also carried out anti-torture and related training and information sharing for civil society and/or government officials from an array of countries including Chad, Greece, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Libya, Mexico, Myanmar, Nepal, Nigeria, Peru, South Africa, Turkey, Tunisia, Uganda, Uzbekistan.

REDRESS has joined the 'Group of Friends' of the Convention Against Torture Initiative (CTI), which is a State-led initiative to promote universal ratification and implementation of the Torture Convention, and through this collaboration have participated as an expert in the CTI's regional meetings with States in Africa and the OSCE regions.

We also worked with local partners to engage regional and international human rights bodies to draw attention to particular problem areas and to advocate for their greater engagement of governments. For instance, we submitted information the UN Committee Against Torture Concerning Bahrain's Third Periodic Report. We also wrote with other civil society actors to the UN Human Rights Council about the situation in Sudan.



Anti-torture work in the United Kingdom

As a UK based organisation, REDRESS also has a dedicated advocacy focus to ensure that the UK Government meets its international obligations and stays true to the absolute prohibition of torture in all respects including ensuring that strong policy level statements which reject torture are substantiated with good practice by all relevant agencies.

This includes how the UK Government responds to torture allegations in its foreign relations as well as its response to allegations which concern UK officials, e.g., the UK Government's performance in investigating, prosecuting and affording reparation to victims of torture and other prohibited treatment allegedly carried out by or with the acquiescence, acknowledgement or complicity of UK officials (whether they are border guards, security officials, persons in charge of places of detention, military, police or private actors with functions delegated by the State).

It also includes monitoring the performance of the immigration, police and prosecution services as appropriate in detecting persons who are located in the United Kingdom and are alleged to have perpetrated torture or related crimes abroad and ensuring that those persons are duly investigated and prosecuted in accordance with national law and international obligations.



British, US and Iraqi soldiers in Basra, Iraq, in 2008. Credit: US Army Photo by Sgt. Tim Ortez.

REDRESS also monitors the performance of consular officials and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office more broadly in adequately responding to torture allegations made by British nationals and provides input on how this work may be improved.

This year, REDRESS monitored several accountability processes and provided information to United Nations oversight bodies to encourage greater compliance with the UK Government's anti-torture obligations:

- The Iraq Historical Allegations Team set up to review allegations of abuse by UK armed forces against Iraqi civilians between 2003 and 2009. These include allegations of torture and war crimes – crimes which are prohibited under international law and which the United Kingdom has proscribed through its implementation of the International Criminal Court (ICC) statute and which the Government is thereby committed to combat wherever those crimes occur. REDRESS expressed concern about the plans to close IHAT that were announced on 10 February 2017. We have

argued that its closure will limit the prospects for an independent investigation into any remaining cases like Baha Mousa, the Iraqi hotel receptionist who died after being interrogated and abused by British soldiers, and the case of fifteen year old Kareem Ali, who was allegedly thrown into a canal and left to drown.

- REDRESS has monitored investigations into allegations that UK security agencies were complicit in rendition and torture. Investigations were commenced by a judge-led Detainee Inquiry which made only limited progress and was prematurely terminated in January 2012. The Intelligence and Security Committee which is structurally incapable of complying with the UK's international obligations as it is not sufficiently independent took over the investigation. The inquiry remains pending with little notable progress achieved to date, having begun its work on the issue in June 2014.

We also addressed the UK Government on foreign policy matters concerning torture, including relations with Bahrain and Sudan.

4 Promoting International Standards



REDRESS called for States to review the inadequate laws and policies towards refugees and other migrants. Photo by Patrick Marioné

REDRESS' international standard setting work consists in carrying out analytical research on the meaning of existing standards, clarifying standards which are vaguely articulated as well as carrying out advocacy to introduce new standards where the existing ones do not adequately address barriers to justice.

Efforts are aimed at strengthening the international framework (encouraging a transition from soft law to hard law where appropriate); translating these international standards into regional practices; and on implementation in-country.

It is particularly important to defend existing standards in the face of an increasingly hostile political environment regarding issues of non-refoulement and even the absolute prohibition on torture. The International Standards programme works in synergy with REDRESS' other programmes. It takes as inspiration the systemic barriers to justice that victims face, which become known through REDRESS' other programmes of work. It also ensures that new standards and related international jurisprudence are reflected in the ongoing work at the domestic level.



REDRESS supported partners in Uganda engaging with the Universal Periodic Review process in Geneva.

As was noted by an independent evaluator of one of REDRESS' projects, ***'REDRESS' advocacy and support to the African Union Committee for the Prevention of Torture in Africa in the development of its first General Comment on the Right to Redress of Victims of Torture and Ill-Treatment in Africa is a good example of targeted advocacy that is particularly relevant to improving compliance with international standards in the region and fostering access to justice and reparations for victims in Africa. Another example at the international level was the focus on follow-up procedures at the UN Human Rights Committee – an issue that has huge practical implications for victims of torture.'***

On 19 September 2016, the eve of a summit of world leaders meeting at the United Nations General Assembly in New York, REDRESS released a new report **Mass Refugee Influxes, Refoulement & Prohibition Against Torture.**

The report called on Summit leaders, states and relevant international and regional organisations to review the

inadequate law and policies put in place by states to respond to the influx of refugees and other migrants, mainly premised on deterrence as opposed to humanitarianism or respect for legal principles.

According to the report, these policies heighten the risks that those seeking entry are subjected to torture and ill-treatment. This is particularly concerning in cases of people who have been subjected to abuses in their home countries or during their journeys.

The report pinpoints that a particular pressing area for reform is immigration detention and considers that such detention should be exceptional. Additionally, the report underscores the need for respect for the physical and mental integrity of asylum seekers while their claims are being processed.



UN Human Rights Bodies

REDRESS submitted reports and commentary to various treaty bodies including the UN Human Rights Committee, Committee against Torture, Committee on the Elimination of Violence Against Women and the Working Group on Disappearances. It also engaged actively with UN mandate holders such as the Special Rapporteur on Torture, the Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women and the UN Special Rapporteur on Truth, Justice, Reparation and Guarantees of Non-Recurrence.

During the year, we engaged with the **International Law Commission** on the efforts to develop a new **crimes against humanity convention**. REDRESS participated in discussions and has provided input to the Special Rapporteur Sean Murphy, who is leading the drafting process of the convention.

We provided input to the United Nations' **Committee Against Torture** on their plans to develop a new general Comment on non-refoulement (the prohibition of sending, transferring, deporting, extraditing or otherwise sending a person to a country where they are at risk of torture).

The revised General Comment will be a critically important tool for States parties in implementing Article 3 of the Convention Against Torture. We also organised participated in briefings to the UN Committee Against Torture on issues relating to the protection of victims and witnesses and the impact of Interpol Red Notices on the work of the Committee.

REDRESS and other organisations have made a joint submission to the **UN Human Rights Committee** to outline

a series of recommendations to strengthen the follow-up procedure concerning views on individual cases. Anyone may bring an alleged violation of human rights to the attention of the United Nations and thousands of people around the world do so every year.

One of the most used complaints mechanisms is the UN Human Rights Committee, which considers violations of rights contained in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. After considering an individual complaint, the UN Human Rights Committee publishes its findings, also known as views. Despite the importance of this mechanism for victims, implementation of views remains low.

REDRESS has also submitted comments to the **UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women** (CEDAW) on its Draft Addendum to General Recommendation No. 19. That recommendation, adopted in 1992, identifies all acts of gender-based violence as forms of discrimination; targets its root causes within the inequality framework and obliges states to take all appropriate measures to end violence against women.

In its recommendations to CEDAW, REDRESS has proposed a number of suggestions which we believe could strengthen the Draft Addendum. These include adding a separate section on redress to emphasise that the right to redress is a distinct right of victims and a legal obligation on States and to provide further clarity to States on the nature and content of their obligation.



REDRESS supported partners in Uganda engaging with the Universal Periodic Review process in Geneva.

Regional Institutions

In addition to the numerous claims REDRESS has filed with the **African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights** on behalf of victims of torture in Africa, REDRESS is working with the African Commission and the **Committee for the Prevention of Torture in Africa** to strengthen their approach to victims of torture and related international crimes.

REDRESS worked with a number of civil society groups in Africa to assist the Committee for the Prevention of Torture in Africa to draft a General Comment on the right to redress for victims of torture. This landmark standard-setting text has the potential to galvanise support for torture survivors in Africa and clarify States' obligations to afford reparations.

A finalised draft has been prepared and interested States and others have been invited to comment. This General Comment was formally adopted by the Commission in May 2017.

As was reported to an independent evaluator on one of REDRESS' projects, which involved the General Comment, *"... we work with REDRESS more than any other organisation as they are a most reliable partner – we have a very good relationship with them. Whatever we work with, you can be certain you receive a timely response, good quality of work and one of our most reliable partners to work with."*



Launch of the General Comment on the Right to redress in Niamey, Niger.
Photo by KHRC.

REDRESS has also provided input into the African Commission's efforts to develop **guidelines on enforced disappearances**.

REDRESS attended the 59th Ordinary Session of the African Commission in October 2016 as well as the NGO Forum that took place just before it. This year, the African Commission celebrated the Year of Human Rights with a particular focus on the rights of women.

To mark the occasion, REDRESS, in collaboration with its partners from Kenya, Uganda and Sudan, held a panel discussion on "Reparation for Conflict- Related Sexual Violence in Africa" during the NGO Forum on 18 October.

REDRESS and partners – the Coalition on Violence Against Women (COVAW), FIDA Uganda, the Independent Medico-Legal Unit (IMLU), the Kenyan Section of International Commission of Jurists (ICJ-Kenya), Physicians for Human Rights (PHR), the Refugee Law Project and the African Centre for Justice and Peace Studies – also published a briefing paper with recommendations to State Parties and the African Commission on how to ensure redress for victims of sexual violence in conflict.

On 24 October 2016, REDRESS also hosted a side event in Banjul, the Gambia, with the Committee for the Prevention of Torture in Africa (CPTA) on anti-torture legislative frameworks in Africa. The event brought together law

reform experts from Nigeria, South Africa and Uganda. Civil society groups and state representatives participating on the margins of the African Commission's session also took part.

REDRESS and the CPTA are supporting domestic efforts to introduce comprehensive anti-torture legislative frameworks. This collaboration includes engagement with a wide range of stakeholders in several African countries where law reform processes are underway.

REDRESS has also been working to strengthen European institutions for the protection of human rights and to counter impunity. REDRESS is collaborating with and

supporting the **EU Genocide Network**, a network of state investigators and prosecutors working on international crimes cases within the EU.

REDRESS Nederland has been working with the EU Genocide Network Secretariat to ensure that civil society perspectives are reflected in their work and is now working on a report on victim participation in the investigation and prosecution of international crimes by Dutch authorities in Syria.

Stichting REDRESS Nederland was formally established on 7 September 2016. The organization has its registered office and principal place of business in The Hague, The Netherlands, the international city of peace and justice. It is registered with the Dutch Chamber of Commerce, registration number: 66793319, and has recognised charitable “ANBI” status under Dutch legislation.

The objectives of REDRESS Nederland are to promote throughout the world justice for victims of torture and related international crimes and to support victims in their efforts to secure reparation for the harm they suffered.

REDRESS Nederland is working to eradicate the practice of torture worldwide, support victims of torture and end impunity for the perpetrators. REDRESS Nederland is a victim-centred organisation; it works to support, empower and give voice to victims’ concerns, interests and perspectives in all aspects of its work.

REDRESS Nederland is a separately constituted entity under Dutch law, though it draws its inspiration from REDRESS (London) and REDRESS (London) is active in helping the organization to develop its operations. Currently two out of three trustees also sit on the Board of the UK charity and as a result under UK charity law, this will be considered a subsidiary. Its inaugural Board of Directors consist of:

Nigel Paul Lomas, Chair

Willa Geertsema, Treasurer

Rianne Letschert, Secretary

Communications serves a number of purposes for REDRESS:

- Improving the visibility of REDRESS and its work in order to showcase the work we are doing and build communities of support;
- Strengthening public awareness of the scale of the problem of torture in order to advance policy agendas, explain why there should be zero tolerance of torture, and provide for a more rehabilitative environment for survivors through greater awareness of victims’ experiences, rights and needs;
- Making REDRESS’ services known to potential clients, front-line agencies working with torture survivors and civil society groups globally in order to extend our reach.

In the past year, REDRESS’ work has been covered in a variety of media outlets, including major international news outlets and local media in countries affected by REDRESS’ work in multiple languages. Some of the countries which have featured stories about REDRESS and its partners this year include: Denmark, Kenya, Lithuania, Mexico, Nepal, United Kingdom and the United States.

In addition, REDRESS’ social media presence continues to grow, through Facebook and Twitter pages and increased traffic on our website.

We organised a range of activities for 26 June, UN Day in Support of Victims of Torture, including the launch of several videos



Legal Advisor Kevin Laue is interviewed by SABC TV.

prepared with partners in Libya, Nepal, Peru, and we launched a new handbook to support journalists who report on torture.



The ‘Reporting on Torture’ handbook provides accurate, up-to-date information and guidance in five languages (English, French, Arabic, Spanish and Nepalese) to help journalists cover the subject in detail.

Through accurate reporting, journalists can increase awareness of the universal prohibition of torture and of the challenges that may be preventing survivors from obtaining justice. Journalists can also provide important insights into the impact of torture on the survivors and their communities.

The ‘Reporting on Torture’ handbook explains states’ obligations to prevent, prohibit and respond to torture allegations. It also details the impact of torture on victims and provides guidance to journalists on minimising the risks they may face when reporting on torture and on how to safely and appropriately interview and interact with torture survivors.

our plans for the future

Public benefit

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the guidance of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to public benefit published by the Commission in determining the activities undertaken by the Charity. The Trustees are satisfied that the aims and objectives of the charity, and the activities reported on above to achieve those aims, meet these principles.

Evaluation of our work and looking forward

REDRESS adopted a strategic plan for the period starting 1 April 2014. The strategic plan sets out the institutional and programmatic directions of the organisation and in particular:

- underscores REDRESS' desire to strengthen its partnerships with local civil society groups in order to maximise impact;
- commits REDRESS to working in countries where torture is endemic and taking special measures to ensure that particularly marginalised groups who experience or are especially vulnerable to torture are able to benefit from REDRESS' interventions;
- commits REDRESS to work to end State complicity in torture and seek justice for the victims of such collusion, particularly in the context of the phenomenon of democratic States' collusion in torture during counter-terrorism or wider security operations;
- underlines REDRESS' goal of developing and strengthening the organisation' operational capacity and resources to support and sustain its programme work and opera-

tional running; in particular by increasing and diversifying its funding base, with a focus on core funding.

REDRESS has carried out an internal evaluation which assessed the extent to which REDRESS met the objectives set out in its strategic plan and to inform future strategies of the organisation. REDRESS is now in the process of carrying out a further strategic review as part of its efforts to put in place its next strategic plan.

This past year we commissioned an external evaluation of a three year project grant funded by the European Union Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights. The grant funded our anti-torture work with four partner organizations and including litigation, research-led advocacy, training and capacity building.

The evaluation confirmed that the Project was a beneficial intervention whose implementation was timely and responsive to the felt needs of the target groups and context of the target countries. The external evaluator concluded that "Overall the project was assessed as being an excellent, effective, and well run project which should make a significant contribution to global efforts to combat torture."

She also noted that "What is clear from the responses of stakeholders is that the approach REDRESS takes to deploying its expertise is efficient and targeted with time and effort spent assisting partners in important capacity building activities and engaging with others to avoid duplication of efforts."

our supporters

Funders

REDRESS is indebted for support this year from:

AB Charitable Trust

Allen & Overy Foundation

The Bromley Trust

Commonwealth Foundation

European Union – European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights

Evan Cornish Foundation

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer LLP

Garden Court Chambers

John Armitage Charitable Trust

John D. and Catherine T. Macarthur Foundation

The Matrix Causes Fund

Oak Foundation

Open Society Foundations

The People's Postcode Trust

Pro Victimis Foundation

The Sigrid Rausing Trust

UN Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture



Supporting the REDRESS team at the London Marathon.

Many of our funders, such as the Bromley Trust, the European Union, the MacArthur Foundation, the Oak Foundation and the UN Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture, have continued to support REDRESS for many years, and their commitment to the organisation and its aims has been very important to REDRESS' stability and success.

We are also very grateful to the many individuals who supported our work this year. In 2017, we received £17,901 (2016 – £19,672) from individual donations, many from long-term supporters of the organisation, some from newer contacts and as a result of sporting and other events. REDRESS supporters raised a record sum through marathons and other sporting events.

In this regard, we would like to thank the runners who participated in the 2016 Virgin Money London Marathon, the 2016 Vitality British 10K London Run and The Royal Parks Foundation Half Marathon and raised money in support of REDRESS's work: Thank you Keith Kazvita Silika, Peter Noorlander, Nano Jansen, Jed Watson, Hugo Pena, Arturo Garcia-Huidobro, Jonathan Taylor, Ed Purkis, Alicia Sanchis, Clara Linnea, Fiona McKay, Kevin Jarman, Rachel Barnes and Scott Sandvik. Sporting events helped draw wider attention to our cause and raised key resources for our work. We also like to thank staff and volunteers who raised funds for The London Legal Walk.

Volunteers, interns and other supporters

The Trustees would also like to record their appreciation of the many volunteers who willingly gave their time to the benefit of the charity. This year, REDRESS' volunteers provided invaluable support to all of our programme areas. REDRESS has been fortunate to host a range of interns and volunteers from many countries, who have contributed substantially to our work.

These include Pierre de Billy; Catherine Dunmore; Roberto Giraldi; Elida Guerra; Meritxel Monras; Tsedoen Khangsar; Callum Lynch; Amanuel Yesuf; Giovanna Leuzzi; Fareed Fletcher; Turan Hursit; Nikita Benning; Pierre Debilly; Clara Hjort; Sneha Shrestha; Abeid Khan; Jeremie Kouzmine; Mukhlesur Rahman Chowdhury; Mahabubur Rahaman; Isabella Melvin; Alicia Méndez Sanchis; Fernando Galeano Granados; Stefania Rollandin; Molly Fox; Kamal Ray Pathak; Nneka Egbuji; Claudia Cardao; Maria Cristina Carletti; Ibrahim Hirabe; Harry Wells; Iason Chatzistamatiou; Hunter Charlton; Lena Becker; Ed Purkis; Scott Sandvik; Aitana Sanchis de la Fuente Bella Melvin; Alice Bryony Winstanley; Laura Blanco; Ellie Foreman; Firouzeh Mitchell; Mohamed Osman Mohamed and David Schlein.

Thank you as well to the professors and students who collaborated with REDRESS through a number of clinical and related human rights programmes. We would like to thank

the law clinics that have provided substantial support this year, including the International Human Rights Law Clinic at U.C. Berkeley School of Law; Boston College of Law London programme; the Victims' Rights Clinic of Queen's University Belfast Human Rights Centre in the School of Law; the University of Oxford Pro Bono Publico; the Human Rights Implementation Centre at the University of Bristol; the University of Essex Human Rights Centre; the Queen Mary Immigration Law programme; the Geneva Academy; the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) at the University of London as well as the Refugee Journalism Project, a collaboration between the London College of Communications and the Migrants Resource Centre to support refugee and exiled journalists in the UK. We would also like to thank in particular Dr. Luke Moffet of Queens University Belfast; Dr. Clara Sandoval and Professor Lorna McGregor of the University of Essex, Dr Lutz Oette (SOAS); Dr Carsten Stahn of the Grotius Centre for International Legal Studies, Leiden University, for the ongoing collaboration.

Special thanks are also due to civil society partners and other supporters and partners throughout the world who continue to share our vision for a world without torture and for the need to achieve justice for victims. In particular, we are grateful to ACAT – France; African Centre for Justice and Peace Studies (Sudan); African Centre for Torture

Victims; Advocacy Forum (Nepal); AFLA; African Policing Oversight Forum; Amnesty International; Aids Free World Code Blue Campaign; Article 5 Initiative; Association for the Prevention of Torture; ASF; ATPDH (Chad); African Centre for Justice and Peace Studies (Sudan); Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation; Chatham House; CICC; City of The Hague; CNDDH; Committee for the Prevention of Torture in Africa; the Convention Against Torture Initiative; DefendDefenders; Dignity; Egyptian initiative for Personal Rights (Egypt); EU Genocide Network; European Centre for Constitutional and Human Rights; Experts by Experience (Manchester); Fair Trials; FIDA Uganda; Freedom from Torture (Birmingham, Manchester and Newcastle offices); GIZ Civil Peace Service (Kenya); Helen Bamber Foundation; Helsinki Foundation (Poland); HRFT (Turkey); HRMI (Lithuania); Human Rights Watch; International Commission of Jurists; ICJ-Kenya; ICTJ; Independent Medical Legal Unit; Institute for International Criminal Investigations; Institute for human rights and development in Africa (IHRDA); Institute for Security Studies; International Centre for Health and Human Rights; International Federation of Human Rights; International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims; JUSTICE; Justice for Iran; Kenyan Human Rights Commission; Khulumani Support Group (South Africa); Kituo Cha Sheria; Law Reform and Development Commission (Namibia); Law Reform Commission (Nigeria); LFJL (Libya); Litigants

Group before the ACHPR; Media Legal Defence Initiative; Nyein Shalom Foundation; OMCT; OSJI; all members of the Pan-African Reparation Initiative (PARI); PROMSEX (Peru); Refugee Law Project; Reprieve; RIS (Rights International Spain); Southern Africa Litigation Centre; Strategic Initiatives in the Horn of Africa (SIHA); Survivors Speak Out network; TRIAL International; Uganda Victims' Foundation (Uganda); UN Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture; all members of the VRWG; Witness.

We are also grateful to Najlaa Ahmed; Reed Brody; Sarah Fulton; Mariana Goetz; Dadimos Haile; Ingrid Massage; Jacqueline Moudeina; Lutz Oette; Nicole Piche.

Support from the legal community

We would also like to warmly thank the numerous law firms, barristers and solicitors that have supported our work over the year. In particular, special thanks to Allan & Overy; Debevoise & Plimpton; Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer; Bindmans LLP; Leigh Day; Hickman Rose; Deighton Pierce Glynn; Russell and Co Solicitors; Bhatt Murphy; Hogan Lovells; Brick Court Chambers; Doughty Street Chambers; Matrix Chambers; Blackstone Chambers; 3 Raymond Buildings; Roque & Butuyan Law Offices (Philippines); Eleni Meleagrou (Cyprus); Luis Felipe Viveros Montoya (Colombia).

structure, governance and management

The Board of Trustees confirms that the annual report and financial statements of the charity comply with current statutory requirements, the requirements of the charity's governing document and the provisions of the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2015) – (Charities SORP FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

The charity may by Ordinary Resolution in a meeting of the trustees appoint any person who is willing to act to be a Trustee, either to fill a vacancy or as an additional Trustee. At every third Annual General Meeting thereafter all the Trustees shall retire from office. Retiring Trustees are eligible for re-election. Trustees are recruited personally by existing members for their legal knowledge, experience of and interest in the charity's work.

The Board of Trustees is responsible, inter alia, for setting and overseeing the overall direction, policies and finances of the charity. It has the power from time to time to adopt and make, alter or revoke, bye-laws for the regulation of the charity and otherwise for the purposes for which the charity is established, so long as such bye-laws are consistent with the Memorandum or Articles of Association. The Director is responsible for the day-to-day management of the charity and execution of policies and practices set by the Board of Trustees. There have been no changes in the objectives since the last annual report. REDRESS plans to continue the activities as outlined above in the forthcoming years subject to satisfactory funding arrangements.

The salary of the Director and all key management and staff are reviewed annually and normally increased in accordance with average earnings to reflect a cost of living adjustment. In view of the nature of the charity, the Trustees aim to benchmark against pay levels in other charities. The remuneration benchmark is the mid-point of the range paid for similar roles in similar charities of similar size and specialisation.

Induction and Training of Trustees

Trustees receive an induction programme which involves meetings with all of the charity's staff and is intended to inform them of the charity's work and objectives.

Financial performance

The charity had net income on unrestricted funds of £123,553 for the year (2016: £73,636) before transfers. After transfers, together with the accumulated surplus brought forward from previous years, the charity now has an accumulated surplus on unrestricted funds of £346,654 (2016: £223,101). Restricted funds carried forward at 31 March 2017 amounted to £109,705 (2016: £469,023), following net loss for the year of £359,318 (2016: £80,999 surplus). The funds carried forward are sufficient for the activities for which the funds were provided.

Income from donations increased by 13.8% to £477,623 in 2017 compared with £419,586 in 2016. Restricted income reduced by 41.5% to £438,050 in 2017 compared to £749,166 in 2016, this was primarily due to the end of a large grant from the European Union's European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights. An application for continuation funding is pending. There was a slight decrease in training and other income in the year which reduced from £29,535 in 2016 to £26,158 in 2017. The overall decrease in income year on year is 21.4%. Expenditure overall has increased by 5.4% from £1,117,807 in 2016 to £1,178,151 however this increase is mainly due to increase in direct projects. The support costs have reduced by 8.6% from £341,793 in 2016 to £312,323 in 2017.

The balance sheet shows that funds held at the end of the year were £235,766 less than at the start of the year. This is largely due to a reduction of restricted funding held at the end of the financial year.

The Trustees have also carefully addressed the complementarities of the charity's work with other national and international organisations to assure donors that funding contributes the maximum impact to a co-ordinated approach to the charity's overall goals.

Reserves policy

REDRESS' total reserves are £456,359 (2016: £692,125) of which £346,654 are unrestricted and £109,705 are restricted. REDRESS holds reserves for a number of reasons:

- To enable activities to continue in the period between major projects supported by Restricted Grant Income;
- To enable REDRESS to initiate projects which can demonstrate to a funder a need for support;
- To invest in future income generation;
- To cover any unforeseen expenditure; and
- To provide cash flow support for Restricted Grant Income paid in arrears.

The Trustees calculate that REDRESS requires a range of free reserves of between £121,000 and £243,000 (3 – 6 months of operating costs) to operate. This range is calculated as the total value of Unrestricted Funds less the value of Fixed Assets which are not immediately realisable for use under the Policy.

At the year-end REDRESS had free reserves of £335,014 (2016: £215,832). The current free reserves are within the target range. The Trustees consider this level to be appropriate because, over the next year, a number of grants are due for renewal with the outcome of applications currently being uncertain.

The Trustees review the organisational budget regularly during the Financial Year and review the Reserves Policy annually as part of this process.

Principal risks, uncertainties and their management

REDRESS has a formal risk management process through which the major risks to which the organisation may be exposed are identified and assessed by likelihood and impact, culminating in a risk control document which is updated on a regular basis. All significant risks, together with current mitigation actions, are reviewed by the Trustees. The Trustees are satisfied that systems have been developed and are in place to mitigate identified risks to an acceptable level.

The principal risks and uncertainties identified by the charity relate to governance, reputation, legal compliance with external regulations; recruitment and retention; financial health; data security. The trustees are satisfied that the control measures in place are adequate to mitigate the risks to an acceptable level. In particular, the Management Committee, comprised of the Director, the Head of Finance and the Head of Law and Policy work together as a team to review and address various management issues including risk mitigation.

The trustees have been in communication with the Charity Commission this year to report a serious incident concerning a theft of petty cash by an employee of REDRESS. The sum involved was not significant however the trustees have treated the matter as a serious incident and have reviewed and revised where appropriate financial procedures in order to prevent recurrence.

The Management Committee is working to add and strengthen policies and procedures under the oversight of the Board, who as charity trustees, are responsible for the overall oversight of governance of REDRESS.

With respect to reputational risks the Communications Officer within the scope of the limited available resources is leading efforts to extend knowledge of and access to information about REDRESS, its work and achievements, through a variety of traditional and new media platforms, including cultivating relationships with journalists, working with staff on opinion pieces, strengthening and updating REDRESS' website and related outreach materials and social media presence.

A new website is in preparation and is scheduled for launch in the upcoming Financial Year. The Director oversees consistency and accuracy of content and messaging. There is a strict review process of all written submissions, documents and other substantive outputs led by the Head of Law and Policy and overseen by the Director with periodic staff training and skills development.

The Management Committee and Trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about REDRESS's ability to continue as a going concern. With respect to the next reporting period, 2018, a good fundraising application pipeline is in place and the Charity has a reasonable contingency plan in place such as reducing certain lines of expenditure if the required level of funding is not achieved. Trustees receive frequent updates and monitor the financial health of the organisation on a regular basis. The review of our financial position, reserves levels and future plans gives Trustees confidence that guarantee the charity remains a going concern.

Statement of the Board of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees (who are also directors of The Redress Trust for the purposes of company law), are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- Make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable UK Accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time of the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as we are aware:

- There is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware; and
- The trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

Events since the end of the year

In the opinion of the Board of Trustees no event since the balance sheet date significantly affects the company's financial position.

Auditors

The auditors, haysmacintyre, are proposed for re-appointment in accordance with Section 485 of the Companies Act 2006.

In preparing this report, the Trustees have taken advantage of the small companies exemptions provided by section 415A of the Companies Act 2006.

This report was approved by the Board of Trustees on and signed on its behalf by:

Nigel Paul Lomas
Chair of the Board of Trustees, 11 July 2017

independent auditor's report to the members and trustees of the REDRESS Trust

We have audited the financial statements of (name of charitable company) for the year ended 31 March 2017 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and the related notes. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and auditor

As explained more fully in the Trustees' Responsibilities Statement set out on page 24, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view.

We have been appointed auditor under the Companies Act 2006. Our responsibility is to audit and express an opinion on the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland). Those standards require us to comply with the Auditing Practices Board's Ethical Standards for Auditors.

Scope of the audit of the financial statements

A description of the scope of an audit of financial statements is provided on the Financial Reporting Council's website at www.frc.org.uk/auditscopeukprivate.

Opinion on financial statements

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2017 and of the group's and the parent charitable company's net movement in funds, including the income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- The information given in the Trustees' Annual Report (which incorporates the directors' report) for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- The Trustees' Annual Report (which incorporates the directors' report) has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' Annual Report (which incorporates the directors' report).

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the charitable company has not kept adequate and sufficient accounting records, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the charitable company financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies exemption in preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and Strategic Report.

Murtaza Jessa
Senior statutory auditor,
for and on behalf of haysmacintyre,
Statutory Auditor

Date: 11 July 2017

26 Red Lion Square
London
WC1R 4AG

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31st March 2017 (incorporating the Income & Expenditure account)

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2017	Total 2016
	Note	£	£	£	£
Income from					
Donations and Legacies	2	477,623	-	477,623	419,586
Investment Income		554	-	554	518
<i>Charitable activities</i>	3				
Casework		-	65,378	65,378	33,836
Justice in the Context of Mass Victimisation		-	64,966	64,966	54,283
Influencing National Laws and Practice		-	243,840	243,840	361,480
Promoting International Standards		-	63,866	63,866	299,568
Training and other income		26,158	-	26,158	29,535
Total Income		504,335	438,050	942,385	1,198,805
Expenditure					
Raising Funds		27,350	-	27,350	49,280
<i>Charitable activities</i>	4				
Casework		12,121	33,602	45,723	49,639
Justice in the Context of Mass Victimisation		26,244	72,753	98,997	144,981
Influencing National Laws and Practice		235,864	471,444	707,308	587,828
Promoting International Standards		79,203	219,570	298,773	286,079
Total Expenditure		380,782	797,368	1,178,151	1,117,807
Net Income	6	123,553	(359,318)	(235,766)	80,999
Fund balances brought forward at 1st April 2016		223,101	469,023	692,125	611,126
Fund balances carried forward at 31st March 2017		346,654	109,705	456,359	692,125

There were no recognised gains and losses for 2017 or 2016 other than those included in the statement of financial activities. All the above results are derived from continuing activities. The notes on pages 58-67 form part of these financial statements.

Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2017

Company number: 02774071

		2017	2016
	Note	£	£
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible fixed assets	8	11,640	7,270
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	9	241,226	281,295
Cash		354,545	545,983
Total current assets		595,771	827,278
CREDITORS: falling due within one year	10	(151,052)	(142,423)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		444,719	684,855
NET ASSETS		456,359	692,125
REPRESENTED BY:	12		
Restricted funds		109,705	469,023
Unrestricted funds:			
General funds		335,014	215,832
Designated funds		11,640	7,270
		456,359	692,125

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Board of Trustees on 11th July 2017 and signed on its behalf by:

Nigel Paul Lomas
Chair

The notes on pages 58-67 form part of these financial statements.

Cash Flow Statement as at 31st March 2017

Company number: 02774071

	2017	2016
Cash flows from operating activities:		
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities (Note a)	(183,218)	(31,169)
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Interest Income	554	518
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	(8,774)	(2,876)
Purchase of investments	-	-
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities	(8,220)	(2,358)
Cash flows from financing activities:		
Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities	-	-
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period	(191,438)	(33,527)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	545,983	579,510
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	354,545	545,983
Note a: Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash flow from operating activities		
Net movement in funds for the reporting period	(235,766)	80,999
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	4,404	5,866
Interest	(554)	(518)
Loss/(profit) on the sale of fixed assets	-	608
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	40,069	(169,060)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	8,629	50,936
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	(183,218)	(31,169)
Analysis of cash and cash equivalents		
Cash in hand	354,545	545,983
Total cash and cash equivalents	354,545	545,983

The notes on pages 58-67 form part of these financial statements.

1. Accounting policies

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgments and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2015) – (Charities SORP FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

REDRESS meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and Liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

Going concern

The Trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about REDRESS’ ability to continue as a going concern. With respect to the next reporting period, 2018, a good fundraising application pipeline is in place and the Charity has a reasonable contingency plan in place such as reducing certain lines of expenditure if the required level of funding is not achieved. Trustees receive frequent updates and monitor the financial health of the organisation on a regular basis. The review of our financial position, reserves levels and future plans gives Trustees confidence that guarantee the charity remains a going concern.

Company status

The charity is a company limited by guarantee. The members of the company are the Board of Trustees named on page 41. In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £10 per member of the charity.

Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Board of Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes. Restricted funds are funds that are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by the donors, which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Investment income, gains and losses are allocated to the appropriate fund.

Income recognition

Income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is legally entitled to the income, it is probable that income will be received and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

Resources expended

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of obligation can be measured reliably.

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been included under expense categories that aggregate all costs for allocation to activities. Where support costs cannot be directly attributed to particular activities they have been allocated in proportion to direct costs incurred. The allocation of support and governance costs is analysed in note 4.

Governance costs have been incurred in ensuring compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Assets acquired for the long-term use of the charity and having an initial cost or valuation of £250 or more are capitalised as tangible fixed assets. Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost or valuation less depreciation. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost or valuation of fixed assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives on the following bases:

Office equipment	–	4 years	Straight line
Software	–	4 years	Straight line
Fixtures & fittings	–	6 years	Straight line

Foreign currencies

Assets and liabilities in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rates of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date. Transactions in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rate ruling on the date of the transaction. Exchange differences are taken into account in arriving at the operating surplus.

Employee benefits

Short term benefits

Short term benefits including holiday pay are recognised as an expense in the period in which the service is received.

Employee termination benefits

Termination benefits are accounted for on an accrual basis and in line with FRS 102.

Pension

The charity operates a defined contribution pension policy and the pension charge represents the amounts payable by the charity to funds established by individuals in respect of the year.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from income tax and corporation tax on its charitable activities. The charity is not registered for VAT and is unable to recover VAT on its purchases. All irrecoverable VAT is included within the appropriate headings.

Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any discounts due.

Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

Financial instruments

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

2. Donations

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Total Funds
	2017	2017	2017	2016
	£	£	£	£
Oak Foundation	160,000	-	160,000	125,000
The Sigrid Rausing Trust	120,000	-	120,000	100,000
Fidelity Charitable Trust	-	-	-	94,502
J Armitage Charitable Trust	36,000	-	36,000	36,000
A B Charitable Trust	-	-	-	20,000
Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer LLP	15,000	-	15,000	-
OSI Foundation	120,293	-	120,293	-
Other	26,330	-	26,330	44,084
	477,623	-	477,623	419,586

3. Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Total Funds
	2017	2017	2017	2016
	£	£	£	£
<i>Casework</i>				
Garden Court Chambers	-	-	-	1,000
Peoples Postcode	-	19,962	19,962	-
UN Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture	-	18,666	18,666	12,835
Oakdale	-	750	750	-
Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer	-	20,000	20,000	20,000
Allen & Overy LLP	-	5,000	5,000	-
Gya Williams Immigration	-	1,000	1,000	-
<i>Justice in the Context of Mass Victimisation</i>				
Evan Cornish Foundation	-	-	-	5,000
Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer	-	15,000	15,000	-
The Bromley Trust	-	20,000	20,000	20,000
Humanity United	-	-	-	(205)
Commonwealth Foundation	-	29,966	29,966	29,488
<i>Influencing National Laws and Practice</i>				
European Union -Greece	-	-	-	3,707
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Germany	-	-	-	40,764
Foreign & Commonwealth Office	-	59,064	59,064	78,403
European Union – EIDHR	-	98,864	98,864	226,792
Pro Victimis Foundation	-	-309	-309	7,072
UN OPCAT	-	793	793	4,742
Foreign & Commonwealth Office CRSGBV	-	85,428	85,428	-
<i>Promoting International Standards</i>				
John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation	-	-	-	205,061
Matrix	-	2,000	2,000	-
European Union – Criminal Justice	-	-	-	(1,108)
Open Society Foundations	-	61,866	61,866	95,615
<i>Training & Consultancy</i>	26,158	-	26,158	29,535
	26,158	438,050	464,208	778,701

4. Total resources expended

	Direct Staff Costs	Other Costs	Apportioned Support Costs	Total	Total
				2017	2016
	£	£	£	£	£
Raising Funds	15,320	4,780	7,250	27,350	49,278
Charitable activities					
Casework	29,918	3,684	12,121	45,723	49,640
Justice in the Context of Mass Victimisation	22,257	50,496	26,244	98,997	144,981
Influencing National Laws and Institutions	134,598	385,206	187,504	707,308	587,828
Promoting International Standards	113,051	106,518	79,204	298,773	286,079
Total	315,144	550,684	312,323	1,178,151	1,117,806

Apportioned support costs include the following costs, allocated to activities in proportion to direct costs incurred on each charitable activity area.

Cost pool	2017	2016
	£	£
Staff and associated costs	253,800	265,198
Casework costs	25,454	16,521
Communications costs	1,302	3,065
Office costs	12,595	34,405
Premises costs	12,388	12,533
Governance costs-see note 5	6,784	10,071
Total	312,323	341,793

5. Governance costs

	2017	2016
	£	£
Audit and accountancy	6,784	10,071
Other direct costs	-	-
Total	6,784	10,071

6. Net income/ (expenditure)

	2017	2016
	£	£
Net income/ expenditure are stated after charging:		
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	4,404	6,031
Auditors remuneration		
Annual Audit services (excluding VAT)	7,690	7,590
Other audit services (excluding VAT)	2,940	-
Operating leases	35,421	33,078
	50,455	46,699

7. Personnel costs

	2017	2016
	£	£
Wages and salaries	460,372	480,132
Social security costs – Employer NIC	44,387	48,944
Pension	43,348	44,958
Temporary, contract and non-UK staff costs	76,469	82,754
Other staff costs e.g. recruitment, training, volunteers	7,143	21,678
	631,719	678,466

One employee received remuneration exceeding £60,000 in the year (2016: 1) and the employer's pension contribution in the year was £6,587 (2016: £6,421). Key management personnel are the senior management team. The total employee benefits of the key management personnel for the year totalled £190,937 (2016: £176,490).

The non-UK staff costs include staff employed by partner organisations working to implement projects and not directly by the charity.

	2017	2016
The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:		
Project staff	8	8
Support staff	5	5
Paid Interns	9	9
	22	22

No trustees (2016: nil) received any remuneration in respect of their role as trustees. Two trustees (2016: two) claimed reimbursement of £105 for travel expenses (2016: £263 for travel expenses) during the year and no amounts were paid directly to third parties.

8. Tangible fixed assets

	Office Equipment £	Fixtures & Fittings £	Total £
Cost			
At 1st April 2016	52,088	8,472	60,560
Additions	8,774	-	8,774
Disposals	(6,855)	(5,071)	(11,926)
At 31st March 2017	54,007	3,401	57,408
Depreciation			
At 1st April 2016	46,589	6,701	53,290
Charge for the year	3,961	443	4,404
Disposals	(6,855)	(5,071)	(11,926)
At 31st March 2017	43,695	2,073	45,768
Net Book Value			
At 31st March 2017	10,312	1,328	11,640
At 31st March 2016	5,499	1,771	7,270

9. Debtors

	2017 £	2016 £
Due within one year		
Other debtors	16,483	22,499
Advances to partners under Grant agreements	4,737	-
Grants receivable	187,344	234,026
Prepayments	22,329	20,836
Accrued income	10,332	3,934
	241,226	281,295

10. Creditors

	2017 £	2016 £
Amounts falling due within one year		
Trade creditors	34,408	38,767
Accruals	21,705	23,609
Social security and other taxes	21,857	13,615
Other creditors	73,083	66,432
	151,052	142,423

11. Fund movements

	Balance 1st April 2016 £	Incoming Resources £	Resources Expended £	Transfers Between Funds £	Balance 31st March 2017 £
Restricted funds					
Casework	19,009	65,378	33,602	-	50,785
Justice in the Context of Mass Victimisation	10,466	64,966	72,753	-	2,679
Influencing National Standards and Practice	234,469	243,841	471,444	-	6,866
Promoting International Standards and Institutions	205,079	63,866	219,570	-	49,375
Total restricted funds	469,023	438,050	797,368	-	109,705
Unrestricted funds					
Designated fund –Development	-	-	-	-	-
Designated fund –Fixed Assets	7,270	8,774	4,404	-	11,640
General fund	215,832	495,561	376,378	-	335,014
Total unrestricted funds	223,101	504,335	380,782	-	346,654
Total funds	692,125	942,385	1,178,151	-	456,359

Restricted Funds

The funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising the unexpended balances of donations and grants, as set out below, held on trusts to be applied for the following purposes:

Casework

This programme supports the charity's direct work with survivors of torture based in the United Kingdom and abroad. It is supported by grants including from the UN Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture, Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer and Peoples Postcode Trust.

Justice in the Context of Mass Victimisation

This programme supports the charity's work in conflict areas such as, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, CAR, Chad, Kenya and Uganda. Bromley Trust, the Commonwealth Foundation.

Influencing National Standards and Institutions

This programme supports the charity's work to ensure that national laws and institutions reflect international law standards and survivors' rights. It includes the organisation's policy, advocacy and capacity building work in the United Kingdom and in a range of countries world-wide. The EC EIDHR, Pro Victimis and the UN Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture Special Fund are among those that have supported this grant this year.

Promoting International Standards

This programme supports the charity's work to develop standards at the regional and international level and strengthen international institutions. The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, The Sigrid Rausing Trust and the Open Society Foundations are among those that have funded the work this year.

Designated Funds

A designated fund representing the net book value of fixed assets has been established. These funds are tied up in fixed assets and are not readily realisable to support the work of the organisation.

12. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 31st March 2017	Total Funds 31st March 2016
	£	£	£	£
Fund balances at 31st March 2017 are represented by:				
Tangible fixed assets	11,640	-	11,640	7,270
Current assets	380,907	214,866	595,771	827,278
Current liabilities	(45,893)	(105,159)	(151,052)	(142,423)
	<u>346,654</u>	<u>109,705</u>	<u>456,359</u>	<u>692,125</u>

13. Capital commitments and contingent liabilities

At the end of the period there were capital commitments to redevelop the website at a cost of £13,709. There are no other financial commitments for which full provision has not been made in these financial statements (2016: nil).

14. Operating leases

Operating lease rentals of £35,421 (2016: £31,022) were paid in respect of properties and equipment held under leases in the year. At 31 March 2017, the charity had the following future minimum lease payment under non- cancellable leases.

	Land and buildings		Other	
	2017	2016	2017	2016
	£	£	£	£
Up to one year	33,601	31,559	887	799
Between two to five years	-	34,899	-	887

15. Pension schemes

The charity operates an auto enrolment scheme in respect of its employees. Pension contributions for are paid into this scheme. As at 31 March 2017, employer contributions outstanding amount to £12,294 (2016: £30,321).

16. REDRESS Trust (USA)

The Redress Trust Limited was incorporated as a Not-for-Profit Corporation in the State of New York on 27th June 1995, (Number 13-4028661). The Internal Revenue Service determined on 22nd October 1999 that The Redress Trust Limited (USA) is exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code as an organisation under Section 501 (c) (3).

The Board of Directors consists of:-

Professor Michael Bazylar (USA), Chair
Stephanie Deckrosh (USA)
Professor Naomi Roht-Arriaza (USA)
Professor Dinah Shelton (USA)
Professor David Weissbrodt (USA)

17. Stichting REDRESS Nederland

Stichting REDRESS Nederland was formally established on 7 September 2016 as an independent charitable organisation under Dutch law. Given the composition of its Board which currently includes a majority of REDRESS TRUST (UK) members, the impact may be the treatment of Redress Nederland as a subsidiary for the purposes of UK Charity Law.

The Board is comprised of:

Paul Lomas (Chair)
Willa Maria Geertsema (Honorary Treasurer)
Rianne Letschert (Secretary)

18. Related party transactions

Donations received from Trustees as aggregate in the year were nil (2016: nil). During the year REDRESS received funding from Open Society Foundations (OSF) £182,158 (2016: 95,616). Baroness Vivian Stern (trustee) is a director of Open Society Foundations (OSF). She was not involved in the decision making process for the allocation of a grant to REDRESS, and joined REDRESS after the decision had been taken to accord grants to REDRESS.

Board of Trustees

Nigel Paul Lomas	(Chair) (appointed January 2016)
Sir Emyr Jones Parry GCMG	(Chair) (resigned December 2016)
Michael Birnbaum QC	
Professor Bill Bowring	
Sherman Carroll PhD, MBE	(Hon.)
Willa Geertsema	(Treasurer)
Frances Guy	(resigned April 2017)
Jasvir Kaur	(resigned February 2017)
Leah Levin OBE	
Rev. Nicholas Mercer	
Dr Nimisha Patel	(resigned February 2017)
Baroness Vivien Stern	

Staff

Carla Ferstman	Director and Company Secretary
Michelle Willis	Head of Finance (until January 2017)
Sheilagh Cardosa	Head of Finance (from January 2017)
Kevin Laue	Legal Advisor (retired March 2017)
Juergen Schurr	Head of Law and Policy
Gaelle Carayon	Post Conflict Policy Advisor
Gaia Pergolo	Legal Officer (until February 2017)
Beini Ye	Post Conflict Legal Advisor
Kyra Hild	International Legal Advisor
Judy Oder	Legal Advisor
Emily Hindle	Caseworker (until September 2016)
Letizia Paoloni	Administrator
Makuta Kamara	Finance Assistant (until February 2017)
Eva Sanchis	Communications Officer
Nora Bendžiūtė	Fundraising Assistant (from August 2016)

Staff of REDRESS Nederland

Juergen Schurr	Head of REDRESS Nederland
Nader Diab	Legal Officer

Founder and Honorary President

Keith Carmichael

Legal Advisory Council

Professor Michael Bazylar
Sir Geoffrey Bindman QC
Joanna Glynn QC
Professor David Harris CMG
Professor Geraldine Van Bueren
Professor Lorna McGregor
Professor David Weissbrodt

Patrons

The Honourable Louise Arbour CC, GOQ
Professor Michael Bazylar
The Rt Hon the Lord Crickhowell
Dato' Param Cumaraswamy
Edward Datnow FRCS
Anthony Foulger
Dr Inge Genefke MD, D.M.Sc.h.c.
Judge Rosalyn Higgins DBE QC
The Rt Hon the Lord Judd
The Rt Hon the Lord Lester of Herne Hill QC
Ms Caroline Moorehead CBE
Professor Manfred Nowak
The Rt Rev Richard D Harries of Pentregarth
Professor Sir Nigel Rodley KBE*
Professor Dinah Shelton
John Simpson CBE
Professor Theo van Boven
Professor David Weissbrodt
Dame Vivienne Westwood DBE, RDI

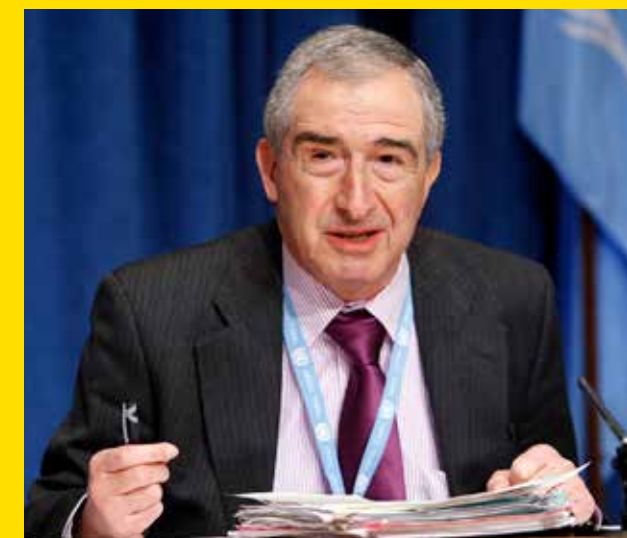
Auditors

haysmacintyre 26 Red Lion Square
London, WC1R 4AG

Bankers

Unity Trust Bank Royal Bank of Scotland
HSBC Bank
Nine Brindleyplace High Holborn Branch
London Bridge Branch
Birmingham B1 2HB London, WC1V 6PQ
London, SE1 1YB

*REDRESS was deeply saddened by the death of our Patron Professor Sir Nigel Rodley, a stalwart of human rights and generous mentor, on 25 January 2017.



Nigel Rodley. UN Photo by Paulo Filgueiras.

key publications this year

March 2017

- Make Way for Justice #3: Universal Jurisdiction Annual Review 2017
- Failure to investigate torture in Bahrain – Submission to the Committee Against Torture Concerning Bahrain's Third Periodic Report – 60th Session of the Committee Against Torture
- Tunisie – Bilan des réformes et perspectives d'avenir pour l'éradication de la torture

February 2017

- Technical Commentary on the Anti-Torture Framework in Nigeria

January 2017

- Report on Stakeholder Roundtable on Victim Participation at the International Crimes Division, Uganda

November 2016

- Litigating torture and ill-treatment in the Middle East & North Africa – A manual for practitioners
- Litigating Torture and Ill-treatment in East Africa – A Manual for Practitioners
- Recommendations to the 15th Session of the Assembly of States Parties – 16-24 November 2016, The Hague
- Moving Reparation Forward at the ICC: Recommendations

September 2016

- Comments to CEDAW on the Draft Addendum to General Recommendation N° 19 (1992): accelerating elimination of gender-based violence against women
- Mass Refugee Influxes, Refoulement and the Prohibition Against Torture
- Joint submission to the UN Human Rights Committee on the follow-up procedure concerning views

August 2016

- REDRESS & ACJPS Submission to All-Party Parliamentary Group on Sudan & South Sudan
- Ugandan ICD Rules 2016 – Analysis on Victim Participation Framework

June 2016

- Comments on Libya's Draft Constitution: updated comments on the prohibition of torture and ill-treatment
- Reporting on Torture – A handbook for journalists covering torture
- Report on training for prosecutors on victims' rights and participation in criminal proceedings in Kenya
- Responding to the Introduction of Cholera to Haiti: Policy Options

April 2016

- Submission of The Redress Trust, the Coalition Ivoirienne pour la Cour Pénale Internationale and Lawyers for Justice in Libya on the Draft Policy Paper on Case Selection and Prioritisation of the Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court

www.redress.org