



Fighting Fear with Facts

Physicians for Human Rights
2018 Annual Report



At a clinic in Tijuana, Mexico, a Central American man who tried to protect his son from being targeted by gangs holds up an x-ray showing where gang members wielding a baseball bat broke his clavicle.

Cover: A Mexican child looks at a U.S. border patrol vehicle through the U.S.-Mexico fence in Ciudad Juarez.

Photo: Herika Martinez / AFP / Getty Images



Through Evidence, Change Is Possible.

The work we do at Physicians for Human Rights is a powerful antidote to the abuses of power and violations of human rights that occur with tragic regularity around the world. Where facts are under daily assault, the health professionals with whom we partner all over the globe apply a unique medical lens to expose torturers, stop ill-treatment of vulnerable people, end sexual violence in conflict, and hold those who commit mass atrocities accountable for their crimes.

When the U.S. administration began separating immigrant children from their parents, we brought critical medical voices to the fore to reveal the extreme harm of that appalling policy. In 2018, amid ongoing attacks on immigrants and asylum seekers, we trained nearly 1,000 medical professionals and medical students to stand on the front lines and defend the human rights of this exceedingly at-risk population. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, forensic medical evidence produced by PHR-trained doctors helped send 11 men to prison for life for raping dozens of little girls in the village of Kavumu – an unprecedented sentence in that country and a true victory for justice. As the brutal assault on the Rohingya unfolded in Myanmar, we sent doctors to refugee camps in Bangladesh to forensically document the shocking injuries suffered by Rohingya women, men, and children and advocated at the highest international levels for accountability for those dreadful crimes.

We know that our work is having an impact on lives around the world. With your support, we are greatly increasing the number of scientific voices advocating for human rights. In the face of daily attacks on truth and the rule of law, PHR's work of using the power of evidence and scientific facts to secure and defend human rights has never been more important or more critically necessary.

A close-up photograph of a hand holding a dark pen, poised to sign a document. The background is blurred, showing what appears to be a medical scan or X-ray on a screen.

Donna McKay

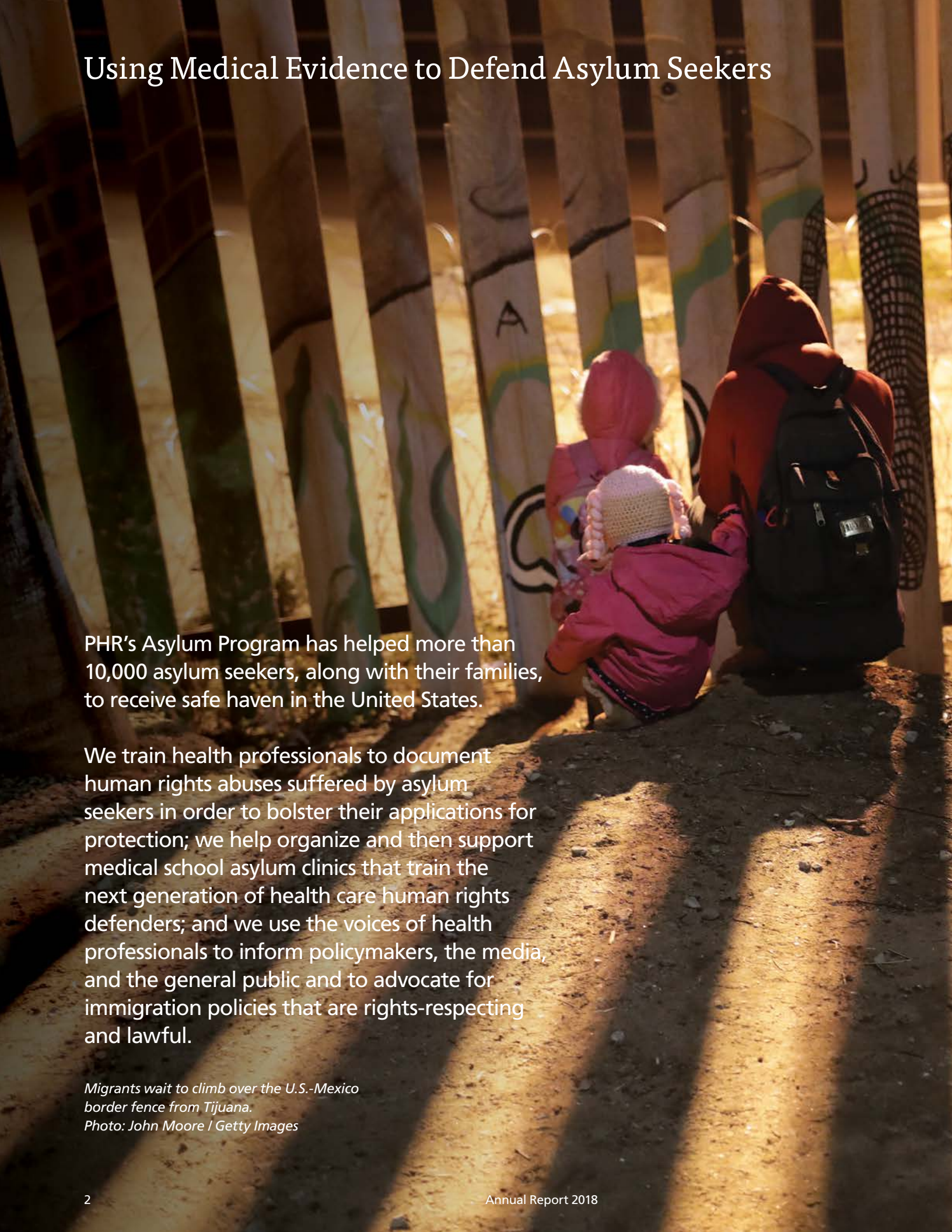
Donna McKay
Executive Director

A close-up photograph of a hand holding a dark pen, poised to sign a document. The background is blurred, showing what appears to be a medical scan or X-ray on a screen.

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Alan K. Jones
Board Chair

Using Medical Evidence to Defend Asylum Seekers



PHR's Asylum Program has helped more than 10,000 asylum seekers, along with their families, to receive safe haven in the United States.

We train health professionals to document human rights abuses suffered by asylum seekers in order to bolster their applications for protection; we help organize and then support medical school asylum clinics that train the next generation of health care human rights defenders; and we use the voices of health professionals to inform policymakers, the media, and the general public and to advocate for immigration policies that are rights-respecting and lawful.

*Migrants wait to climb over the U.S.-Mexico border fence from Tijuana.
Photo: John Moore / Getty Images*



Dr. Norma Price

An Advocate for Migrants at the U.S. Border



*Dr. Norma Price collecting items
found on trails used by migrants
crossing the desert into the
United States.*

“The skin on her lower back was discolored and rough to the touch. As she turned her body, it quickly became evident that what I was seeing was the result of a brutal assault. The burn extended from her waistline and upper buttocks on the left side of her body around to the other side.... This was not the first medical evaluation that I had done of an asylum seeker, and I knew that scars could speak, but the stories that Maria’s* burns told me that day reinforced the power of forensic medical evidence.... When physical scars evaluated during a medical examination corroborate a story of persecution and torture, applicants are more likely to receive asylum.”

**Name changed for security reasons.*

Dr. Norma Price is a retired physician who volunteers with Tucson Samaritans, a group that provides emergency medical assistance, food, and water to migrants crossing the Sonoran Desert. A PHR partner, Dr. Price also uses her medical skills to conduct forensic evaluations that help asylum seekers secure safe haven in the United States. For her courage and dedication, we honored Dr. Price with the Physicians for Human Rights Award at our 2018 gala.

Using Medical Evidence to Defend Asylum Seekers

continued

When the U.S. administration unleashed its crackdown on immigrants and asylum seekers in 2018, PHR's Asylum Program activated on all fronts to address the burgeoning crisis. Joining forces with other immigrant rights organizations, PHR galvanized an unprecedented response by health care professionals to demand an end to the Trump administration's cruel and inhumane policy of family separation, and we showed how this practice causes extreme, sometime irreparable, harm to children. Thanks to the public outcry, in which medical voices played a critical role, the policy was revoked within a week.

As the crisis deepened, we sent PHR staff, board members, and experts to investigate conditions at the U.S.-Mexico border and trained nearly 1,000 new volunteer medical professionals and medical students across the United States to conduct forensic medical and psychological evaluations of asylum seekers – a process that our research shows more than doubles asylum seekers' chances of obtaining safe haven in the United States.

We launched four new research collaborations with universities to help shed light on the asylum claims of vulnerable groups under attack by the U.S. administration. Using the vast trove of forensic medical evaluations conducted by PHR Asylum Network volunteers, we're investigating the brutal experiences that caused child and adolescent asylum seekers to flee their countries of origin, the impact of traumatic brain injury (such as that incurred as a result of domestic violence) on memory, and the cases of asylum seekers escaping political, domestic, and gang violence or female genital cutting. We also added seven new institutions to the rapidly-expanding roster of PHR medical school asylum clinics, where we are nurturing a whole new generation of medical human rights defenders.

We dramatically increased the number of medical, mental health, and other health care professionals engaged with PHR when we appealed to 1,000 of our members to sign a petition demanding an end to the family separation policy. Within 10 days, more than 16,000 new health professionals had signed up and taken action, showing the extraordinary mobilizing effect that passionate health professionals can have on the defense of human rights. This surge strengthens the unique medical voice that we are bringing to the immigration crisis and gives us a significantly bigger microphone to amplify all of our critical messaging.



*Migrants surrender to U.S. Border Patrol agents after jumping over the metal barrier at Tijuana, Mexico.
Photo: Guillermo Arias / AFP / Getty Images*

Expanding Our Reach



June 2017

December 2018

PHR medical school asylum clinics more than doubled from June 2017 to December 2018.

PHR asylum clinics trained nearly 1,000 medical professionals and medical students to conduct forensic medical and psychological evaluations of asylum seekers during 2018.

Asylum Clinics

- Brown University Alpert Medical School
- College of Physicians and Surgeons at Columbia University
- Georgetown School of Medicine
- Harvard Medical School
- Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences in Buffalo
- NYU Postdoctoral Program in Psychotherapy and Psychoanalysis
- University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine
- UCLA Olive View
- UCLA School of Medicine Human Rights Initiative
- UConn School of Medicine
- University of Michigan Medical School
- USC Keck School of Medicine
- Weill Cornell Medical College



Dr. Todd Schneberk, a PHR Asylum Network member, conducts a clinical evaluation of a Central American migrant in Tijuana, Mexico.

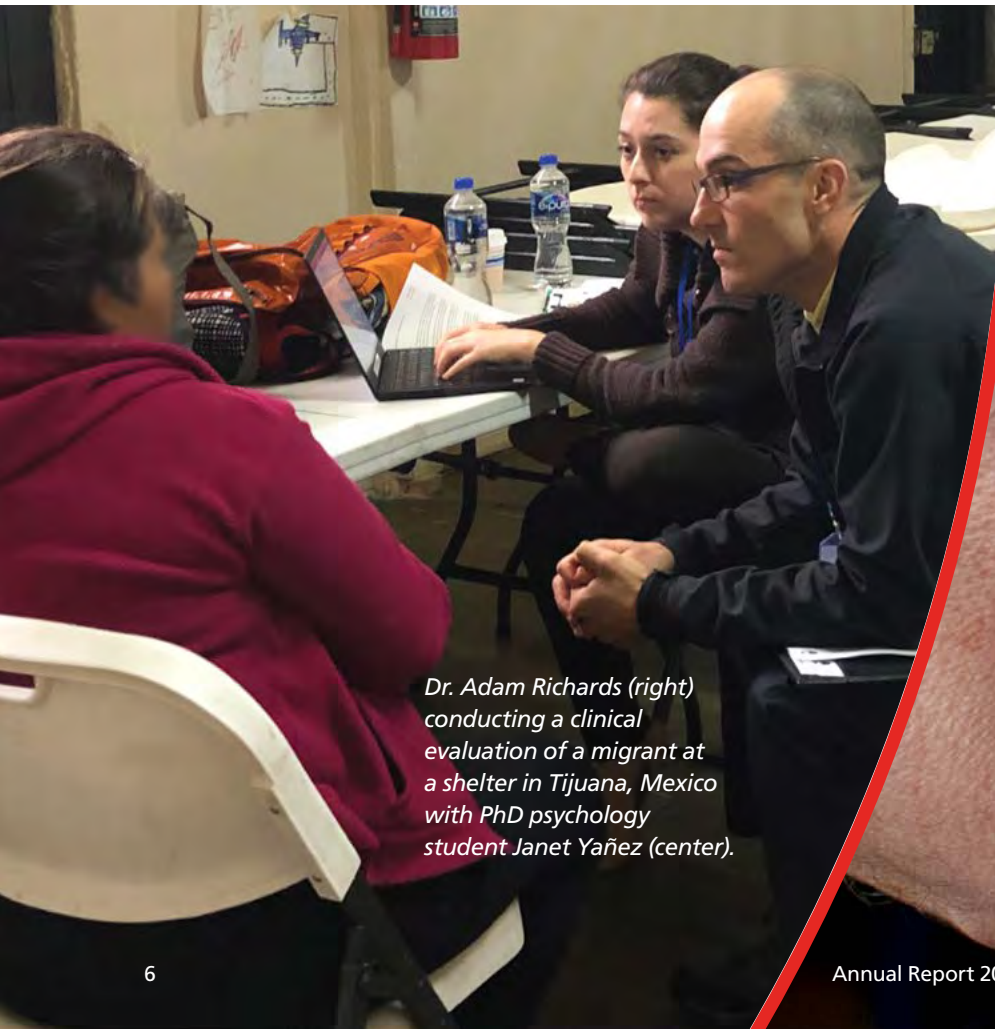
Dr. Adam Richards

Documenting the Impact of Trauma

"I spent all day yesterday in a shelter in Tijuana hearing from families experiencing the physical and emotional consequences of violence and trauma in their home countries. One woman, in particular, told me how the people who had attacked her and her family were known to be here in Mexico and she's too afraid to even go outside the shelter. The U.S. government has said it will turn back people while they're seeking asylum to stay here in Tijuana. That will create unsafe and unhealthy conditions for those families and migrants. The U.S. government must fulfill its legal obligations to allow those asylum proceedings to take place inside the United States."

PHR Board Member Dr. Adam Richards uses his skills in internal medicine and epidemiology to address the health of vulnerable populations, and has been a longtime advisor on PHR's work in Myanmar. In 2018, as part of his work with survivors of torture and asylum seekers, Dr. Richards founded two UCLA-affiliated PHR asylum clinics, where he is mentoring a new cohort of health professionals to use their medical training in the defense of human rights. Recently, Dr. Richards and a team of PHR doctors conducted clinical evaluations of asylum seekers at the U.S.-Mexico border.

PHR Asylum Network's Dr. Craig Torres-Ness measures a scar that resulted when gang members in Tijuana, Mexico attacked this 18-year-old Central American migrant with a piece of rebar. The boy told PHR that the gang targeted him because he could identify those who had killed his brother.



Dr. Adam Richards (right) conducting a clinical evaluation of a migrant at a shelter in Tijuana, Mexico with PhD psychology student Janet Yañez (center).



ALJAZEERA

"When physical scars evaluated during a medical examination corroborate a story of persecution and torture, applicants are more likely to receive asylum."

Dr. Norma Price, Tucson Samaritans medical advisor, PHR partner, and 2018 PHR honoree

“Don’t Spare a Single Man or Boy of Chut Pyin village. Kill Them All”

In August 2017, the Myanmar military and civilian accomplices launched coordinated attacks on the country’s Muslim Rohingya minority, driving 720,000 people into neighboring Bangladesh as they burned villages to the ground, and indiscriminately shot, raped, and killed women, men, and children. PHR deployed teams of doctors and researchers to refugee camps in Bangladesh to build a body of medical evidence of these crimes. Through a vast survey covering village leaders representing more than 916,000 people, clinical examinations of more than 100 survivors, and in-depth qualitative interviews with dozens of witnesses, we documented extensive injuries from landmines, gunshots, explosives, fires, stabbings, mutilations, beatings, rapes, and sexual assaults – providing decisive evidence in two reports of widespread and systematic human rights violations against the Rohingya.

Calling for these acts to be investigated as crimes against humanity, we presented our findings and played an instrumental role advocating as part of a coalition at the United Nations Human Rights Council (HRC) in Geneva in September 2018; the HRC then voted to create an international independent mechanism which will collect and preserve evidence for future criminal proceedings to hold those responsible to account. We also advocated directly with government representatives in Singapore and expanded our network with southeast Asian civil society groups to strengthen our work using critical evidence to bring justice to the Rohingya.



“Your body tells stories, and your scars tell stories, so we try to corroborate ... that story and have documented evidence of what’s going on in Myanmar.”

Dr. Rohini Haar, PHR medical expert

Shot As He Fled For His Life

Fozol Korim* was sleeping in his home in September 2017 when he was awakened at 4 a.m. by gunshots. He saw Myanmar security forces surrounding his village, firing weapons, and burning down houses. Gathering his wife and four children, Korim fled into the forest; several hours later, knowing that villagers had taken refuge there, security forces fired into the trees. Korim’s nephew was shot in the chest and his cousin was shot in the back of the head. Both died immediately. Korim was shot in the upper left back and fell to the ground, losing blood. His family eventually carried him on a four-day trek into neighboring Bangladesh, where he was taken immediately to the hospital. By the time PHR’s Dr. Rohini Haar examined Korim three months later in Bangladesh’s Balukhali refugee camp, he was still suffering from dramatic weakness in his left arm. He bore scars consistent with bullet entry and exit wounds, and had significantly limited range of motion. Unable to lift his left arm, he was having difficulty carrying his newborn child, and was experiencing persistent aching chest pain and fatigue.

**Name changed for security reasons*



PHR Medical Expert Dr. Rohini Haar examining Fozol Korim in Balukhali refugee camp in Bangladesh. He was shot by Myanmar security forces while fleeing an attack on his village in September 2017.*

Photo: Salahuddin Ahmed for Physicians for Human Rights

Violence Committed Against the Rohingya

Physicians for Human Rights doctors conducting research in Bangladesh refugee camps surveyed leaders from nearly 600 Rohingya hamlets in Myanmar's Rakhine state encompassing more than 916,000 people. Leaders from 534 of the hamlets (88 percent) said violence had occurred in their hamlets between June and September 2017. These are the types of violence they reported.



91%

Said people were beaten or injured with weapons



63%

Said religious leaders were targeted



55%

Said people were shot



32%

Said people were tied to buildings/structures



28%

Said people were raped/sexually assaulted



12%

Said people were hurt/killed by landmines



12%

Said people were hit by mortars/RPGs/grenades



9%

Said people were gang-raped

"Two thirds of the population of our village were killed. Parents were killed. Brothers and sisters were killed. Even small children were burned in the fire."

Sultan Ahmed, 19, speaking of the Myanmar military and civilians who attacked his village in August 2017. Ahmed lost his father and brother-in-law in the massacre, and was shot multiple times, including a bullet wound that became infected and required his lower leg to be amputated.*

**Name changed for security reasons*

Dr. Satu Salonen A Duty to Expose Human Rights Abuses

"This Rohingya woman I examined had multiple scars from being hit with explosives and getting shot. She witnessed multiple family members being killed and injured, including her baby, who suffered minor injuries. This was a consistent pattern throughout the medical evaluations that I did for PHR. And the message that came out the loudest from everyone was that they want what we all want – to be safe and to have a home. And to have justice. As a physician and as a human, I think of it as my duty to bring to light human rights violations I witness, aid in bringing justice to those violated, and educate myself and others to prevent future violations."

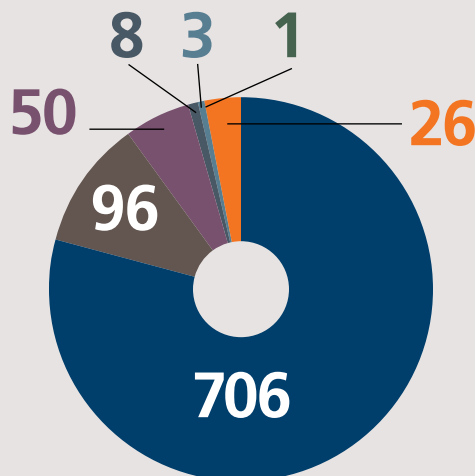
Dr. Satu Salonen is a family medicine physician whose practice focuses on newly-arriving refugees and asylum seekers. In 2018, she and a team of PHR doctors documented injuries of Rohingyas in Bangladesh refugee camps who had fled extreme violence in Myanmar.

Photo: Salahuddin Ahmed for Physicians for Human Rights

890 Medical Workers Have Been Killed in the Syrian Conflict

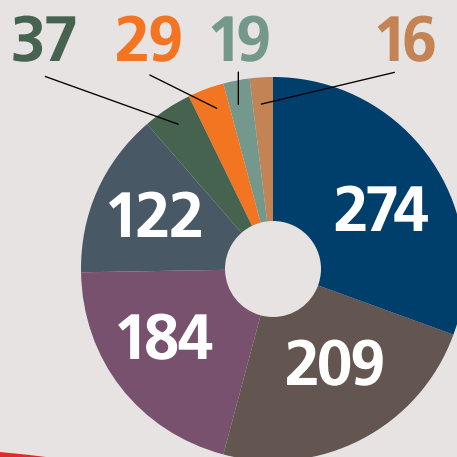
Deaths by Perpetrator

- Syrian Government Forces and Allied Militias
- Syrian Government or Russian Forces
- Non-state Armed Groups
- International Coalition Forces
- Kurdish Forces
- Turkish Forces
- Unknown Forces



Cause of Death

- Aerial Attack
- Shelling
- Small Arms Fire
- Detention: Torture and/or Execution
- Explosion
- Execution During Targeted Raid
- Kidnapping: Torture and/or Execution
- Other



Ahmad al-Dbeis

Bearing Witness under Relentless Attack

“There’s a common saying in Syria now: ‘Keep hospitals away from us, they bring nothing but harm.’ Kfar Zeita Specialty Hospital, near Hama, was subjected to more than 185 targeted attacks to the terrain surrounding the hospital, and more than 10 direct attacks on the hospital itself.* After that, we decided to establish a supporting hospital in a nearby cave with 17-meter-thick walls. This cave hospital was also subjected to a large number of attacks. We were concerned that, by keeping it open, we were creating a trap for the doctors and other medical professionals who work there – so sometimes, in order to protect ourselves, we would not announce that the hospital had resumed services after an attack, since the regime and Russian aircrafts would not direct attacks at a destroyed hospital. We named it the Martyr Hassan al-Araj Hospital, in honor of its founder. Dr. Hassan was killed 30-40 meters from the hospital, just after he left the facility, when a directed aircraft missile struck his vehicle.”

*PHR has verified 13 attacks on this facility



Ahmad al-Dbeis is a Syrian pharmacist and a co-founder of Syria’s “Cave Hospital.” Al-Dbeis, who oversees local documentation of attacks on Syrian health care, is a vital link in PHR’s work to document the destruction of medical facilities and the killing of health care professionals in the Syrian conflict.

Above: Syrian pharmacist and activist Ahmad al-Dbeis inside the Martyr Hassan al-Araj Hospital, which he helped establish in a cave in an effort to protect the facility from attacks.





Amassing Evidence of War Crimes in Syria

With the devastating conflict in Syria entering a new and uncertain phase and the beginning of international prosecutions against alleged perpetrators of war crimes, PHR's extensive body of data on the conflict has become even more crucial. For eight years, we have applied our critical scientific lens to the impact of the fighting, rigorously documenting attacks on health facilities and medical personnel and calling attention in the highest international circles to the gross violations of international humanitarian law – the vast majority of which have been carried out by the Syrian government and its Russian allies. Through collaborations with the United Nations, the Syrian American Medical Society and other NGOs, and international justice mechanisms, our data is reaching key leaders and advocates in dozens of countries. The breadth of our reach and the rigor of our research are helping to ensure that those who attack Syrian medical facilities and frontline health professionals and torture and kill civilians will be prosecuted for war crimes and crimes against humanity. Peace can only be achieved with a full accounting for these atrocities.

theguardian

"The unspeakable suffering we are witnessing was deliberately planned and meticulously implemented over time. The current situation is the lethal result of a conscious strategy of besiegement, blocking of aid and, ultimately, the illegal destruction of civilian targets with bombs – a tactic the Syrian government and its allies initiated in Aleppo, and are now repeating with brutality in eastern Ghouta."

Susannah Sirkin, PHR director of policy

*A Syrian prisoner released from a government jail shows his wounds to rebel fighters near Aleppo.
Photo: Omar Haj Kadour / AFP / Getty Images*



Harnessing Medical Skills to Investigate Atrocities in Iraq

Years of conflict and authoritarian rule have riven Iraq with instability and violence. In 2014, fighters of the self-declared Islamic State (ISIS) unleashed a new and horrifying wave of human rights abuses when they overran villages populated by the Yazidi minority in Iraq's Kurdistan region, massacring men and boys and enslaving women and girls. Though many captives have escaped or been freed, more than 3,000 Yazidis are still missing. In response to domestic and international efforts to investigate and document gross atrocities committed by ISIS, PHR is training Iraqi medical, law enforcement, and legal professionals in international standards for forensically documenting evidence of sexual violence and other kinds of torture. In 2018, PHR trained more than 50 professionals and convened the first ever cross-sectoral gathering of Iraqi professionals involved in the chain of justice for such crimes. Clinicians, investigators, lawyers, judges, law enforcement, and civil society members learned to document, collect, analyze, and preserve evidence of human rights violations and to use such evidence to advance accountability for perpetrators and support justice and reparations for witnesses and victims. One of our key partners in the Iraq work, Dr. Nagham Nawzat Hasan, a medical doctor and Yazidi activist, received the 2018 Physicians for Human Rights award for her extraordinary work on behalf of Yazidi survivors of ISIS atrocities.

Calling Out Mass Crimes in Yemen



The conflict in Yemen, raging since 2015, has generated the worst humanitarian crisis in the world: tens of thousands of people have been killed or injured, nearly three quarters of the population depends on humanitarian assistance, and half the country's health care infrastructure has reportedly been destroyed. In 2018, PHR highlighted the ongoing mass atrocities, including attacks on health facilities, the blocking of humanitarian aid, the weaponization of diseases such as cholera and polio, and the use of starvation as a weapon of war. Through this advocacy and participation in the Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition, PHR presses for accountability for these violations of international humanitarian law.

Above: Yemeni rescue workers carry a victim of reported airstrikes by Saudi-led coalition forces on the capital Sanaa.

Photo: Mohammed Huwais / AFP / Getty Images

Opposite: A Yazidi refugee in a camp in Syria celebrates news of the liberation of Sinjar from ISIS.

Photo: John Moore / Getty Images

Dr. Lena Asaad

Honing the Skills to Document Torture

"Medical forensics experts, especially doctors, can bring particular skills to dealing with cases of sexual assault, torture, and trauma by our careful examination of the wounds and documentation of the assault. As a forensic pathologist and a doctor, I've been building my skills to deal with these human rights issues. PHR's training is at the top of my list for having taught me the ideal way to examine survivors and document what I see."

Dr. Lena Asaad has been conducting forensic documentation for six years as a forensic pathologist for the Iraqi Ministry of Health. She currently manages the Center for Sexual Assault, Child Abuse, and Torture Cases in Baghdad, and is a key partner in PHR's work to improve the forensic documentation of evidence of sexual violence and torture in Iraq.



U.S. Medical Personnel Complicit in Torture? Not on Our Watch.

Human rights victories seldom go unchallenged. In 2018, military psychologists tried to overturn a three-year-old prohibition on psychologists taking part in U.S. national security interrogations or working at detention sites that violate international law, including Guantánamo Bay detention center – a ban won after years of anti-torture advocacy by PHR.

In the face of this attempted backsliding, we helped lead a vigorous campaign to prevent a return to complicity by health professionals in torture and ill-treatment. We lobbied the American Psychological Association (APA) to uphold professional ethics and maintain the ban, helped rally partner organizations and the public to bring pressure, and helped arm PHR-allied psychologists within the APA with a strategy to prevent a rollback.

In August 2018, the APA voted to maintain the ban by a resounding 2-1 majority. Allied members of the APA credited intense pressure from PHR and the human rights community for the victory that ensures that psychologists will not participate in secret detention, interrogation, and torture at Guantánamo and other detention sites.



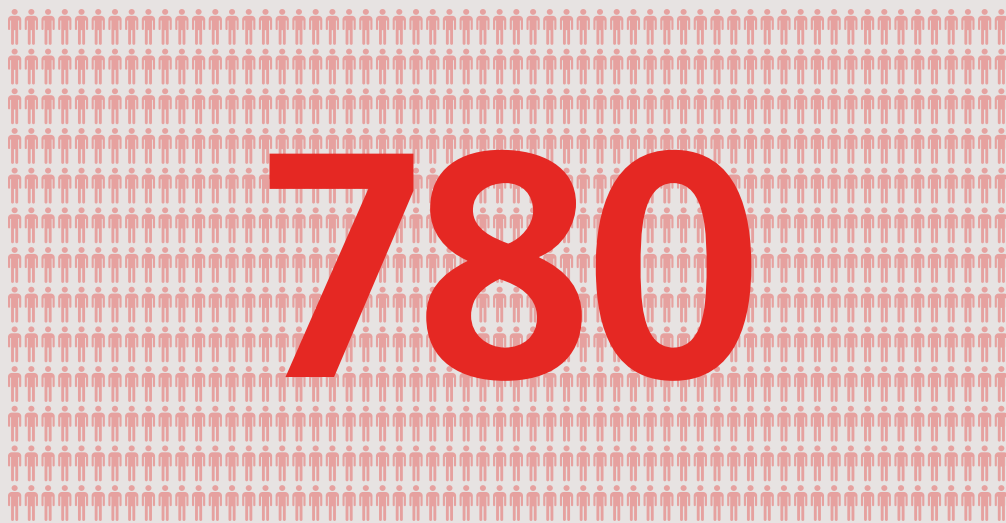
“When I was detained, I had a sciatic nerve condition.... I was telling my interrogator that I needed help because I used to take pain medicine and other therapeutic treatments. But that information was like a godsend to my interrogators because now they knew where to hurt me.”

Mohamedou Slahi, former Guantánamo detainee and author of “Guantánamo Diary,” interviewed on a PHR Facebook Live

U.S. military guards walk a detainee through Camp Delta in Guantánamo Bay detention center.

Photo: John Moore / Getty Images

Guantánamo by the Numbers



Number of men imprisoned at Guantánamo since 2002



40

Number of men remaining at Guantánamo



26

Number of men not charged with a crime and not cleared for release



8

Number of convictions (of which 3 have been overturned in full and one in part, for a total of 4 convictions)



5

Number of men cleared for release but still being held

Source: Miami Herald

Dr. Sondra Crosby

The Ethical Duty to “Do No Harm”

“Physicians for Human Rights...[has] documented how the CIA torture program relied heavily on health professionals to carry out its ‘enhanced interrogation,’ ostensibly to add a layer of perceived legitimacy to the torture techniques. Using doctors to enforce torture, and clinical psychologists to design it, profoundly violated the ethical duty to ‘do no harm’ and went against everything that clinicians like us stand for. The harm those health professionals helped inflict is substantial.”

PHR Medical Expert Dr. Sondra Crosby is an internationally recognized authority on torture who has written more than 200 affidavits documenting the medical and psychological consequences of torture and ill-treatment. Dr. Crosby works with PHR to train colleagues around the world on how to document physical and psychological evidence of torture.



Dr. Sondra Crosby (second from left) conducting a role play during a PHR training on torture investigation and documentation in Iraq in 2018.

A Step Closer to Justice for Survivors of Sexual Violence

PHR saw extraordinary recognition and progress in efforts to bring justice to survivors of sexual violence last year.

Evidence vs. Impunity. Evidence Won.

In December 2017, a Congolese court convicted 11 men – including a powerful regional lawmaker – of crimes against humanity and sent them to prison for life for raping dozens of young girls in the town of Kavumu. The verdict was upheld on appeal in July 2018. This groundbreaking verdict affirmed five years of work by PHR experts, who trained Congolese health professionals on how to conduct comprehensive medical evaluations of the young survivors, assisted in the collection of physical and psychological evidence of the crimes, and provided technical support – including providing voice distortion technology during the trial – to protect witnesses in unprecedented ways. The landmark case was a testament to how the gathering of forensic medical evidence and the collaboration of medical and legal professionals can hold powerful perpetrators accountable and help vulnerable populations access justice.



Frederic Batumike, a powerful regional lawmaker and leader of a militia that raped dozens of little girls in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, after the landmark conviction which sent him and 10 others to prison for life for crimes against humanity.

The Nobel for a Survivor and a Doctor

We were particularly proud to see our longtime, key partner Dr. Denis Mukwege awarded the 2018 Nobel Peace Prize along with Yazidi activist Nadia Murad for exceptional leadership and courage in speaking out against sexual violence in conflict zones and amplifying the voices of survivors. The Nobel Committee's recognition of both a medical professional and a survivor of sexual violence is a remarkable validation of the kind of collaboration promoted by PHR among clinicians, survivors, and activists to shine a spotlight on these horrific crimes and to demand justice from local courts and international institutions.



Yazidi activist Nadia Murad and Congolese physician Dr. Denis Mukwege were awarded the 2018 Nobel Peace Prize for their work to end sexual violence in conflict zones. Photo: Haakon Mosvold Larsen / AFP / Getty Images

PHR partner Christine Matindi, a senior analyst at Kenya's Government Chemist Laboratory, which conducts forensic analyses in criminal cases, examining a semen sample relating to a sexual violence case.

Photo: Adriane Ohanesian for Physicians for Human Rights



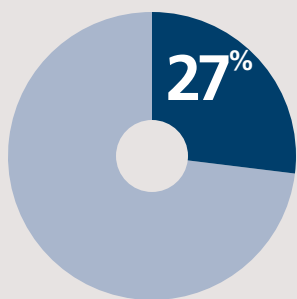


"A few years ago, a trial like this would have been unimaginable. For too long, those who commit rape in the Congo have thought they were invincible. Slowly, there are signs that impunity is not inevitable."

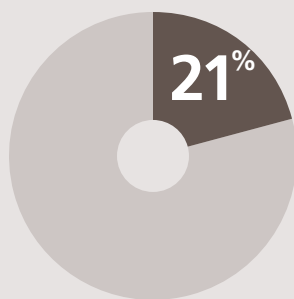
Physicians for Human Rights

*A Congolese woman attending a meeting of an NGO aimed at development, peace-building and reconciliation.
Photo: Phil Moore / AFP / Getty Images*

Combating Sexual Violence in Central and East Africa



Percentage of women in the DRC aged 15-49 who have experienced sexual violence.¹



Percentage of women in Kenya aged 15-49 who have experienced sexual violence.²

1,000,000+

Number of women and girls, including infants, who have been raped during the past 20 years of conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).³



Continuing our unique cross-sectoral strategy to combat sexual violence, PHR and our partners in 2018 trained 308 new medical, legal, law enforcement, and justice professionals in Kenya and the DRC to work together to investigate and bring cases of sexual violence to trial.

1. SDRC Demographic and Health Survey 2013-14.

2. National Crime Research Center, Nairobi, Kenya.

3. United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

Christine Matindi

Delivering Sound Medical Evidence to the Courts

"A case is dependent on the way the material is handled before it gets to analysis. If the material is not handled properly, if documentation is not done properly, that case collapses. Before my training with PHR, we had a lot of difficulties in the type of exhibits we were receiving from police officers, from health facilities, and we also had a very huge disconnect with the judicial system, who did not understand how to interpret our results. My [PHR] training was the first forum that I was able to sit with health professionals, with professionals from the judicial system, from the directorate of public prosecution. We were able to understand, to come to a consensus about what kind of document should be submitted.... And with time, we formed networks, and this helped us a lot, because now many of the people I have met through PHR can call me directly and ask me, 'I have this sample: How do I store it? How should I submit it to your office? How should I save it?' After my training with PHR, [I've been] able to stand confidently in court to defend a particular case."



Photo: Adriane Ohanesian for Physicians for Human Rights

Christine Matindi, a senior analyst at Kenya's Government Chemist Laboratory, attended her first PHR forensic medical documentation training in 2014. Now a PHR trainer herself, Matindi says PHR's strategy of teaching professionals across sectors to work together to prosecute cases of sexual violence has been crucial in improving justice for survivors.

A Step Closer to Justice for Survivors of Sexual Violence

continued

Innovation Means Help for Survivors

MediCapt is PHR's award-winning mobile application that allows health care providers to digitally document medical evidence of rape and sexual assault, photograph survivors' injuries, and securely transmit the data via the cloud to police, lawyers, and judges involved in prosecuting sexual violence crimes – all the while safeguarding patient privacy, protecting witnesses' identities, and preventing the theft, destruction, or loss of vital information. In 2018, after several years of development and testing, PHR partners at Kenya's Naivasha Sub-County Referral Hospital launched MediCapt with patients – a crucial step on the path to justice for survivors.

In September 2018, MediCapt won the MIT Solve Challenge – one of eight innovations chosen by expert judges from among 265 applicants in the “Frontlines of Health” category. These partnerships and milestones have strengthened our ability to take the app to scale so that this documentation tool can benefit more survivors and support greater justice in sexual violence cases.

SOLVE

“MediCapt has the potential to document sexual violence cases anywhere, anytime. It can be used with any language, any form, and within any legal jurisdiction. We see the opportunity for growth and to scale this new technology to allow for more convictions and greater justice for all sexual violence survivors.”

Karen Naimer, Director of the Program on Sexual Violence in Conflict Zones



A Global Roadmap to Fight Torture

Justice in a New Form

Sometimes, a simple piece of paper can be the key to justice for survivors of human rights abuses. Since 2012, a skilled and dedicated team of PHR experts and staff has worked intensively with doctors, nurses, police officers, lawyers, and judges in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) to develop and use a standardized forensic medical form to collect, document, and preserve court-admissible evidence of sexual violence. Health care professionals are now using the forensic form to record medical evidence of sexual violence in more than 86 health centers in eastern DRC, serving thousands of survivors every year. It is a critical step toward ensuring that those who experience the horror of sexual violence can have access to justice for the crimes they suffered.

Torture and ill-treatment are heinous crimes that are all too often concealed to effectively preclude justice, accountability, and redress. In 2018, PHR spearheaded an ambitious international effort to update the Istanbul Protocol, international guidelines which were developed under PHR's leadership and adopted by the United Nations two decades ago to investigate and document torture. PHR's senior medical advisor, Dr. Vincent Iacopino – a lead author of the original Istanbul Protocol – led more than 180 of the world's top torture experts from 51 countries in expanding and clarifying the guidelines. The Istanbul Protocol Supplement – which will be presented to the United Nations in 2019 – emphasizes the obligation of health professionals to abide by the highest standard of medical ethics. It also offers crucial guidance to help states reform policies around torture, improve their forensic capacity, and measure accountability and progress – concrete plans to make ending torture a reality.

Left: PHR's Karen Naimer presenting our mobile app MediCapt at MIT Solve, where it was one of eight winners from among 265 applicants in the Frontlines of Health category. Photo: Adam Schultz / MIT Solve

Below: A forensic medical form designed by PHR and our partners is being used by clinicians in more than 86 health care centers in the DRC serving thousands of survivors of sexual violence every year.




PHR Senior Medical Advisor Dr. Vincent Iacopino, a lead author of the Istanbul Protocol – the UN standards for investigating and documenting torture and ill-treatment – addressing a meeting in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan on how to help states implement the Protocol's guidelines.

DRC serving thousands of survivors of sexual violence every year.

PHR Senior Medical Advisor
Istanbul Protocol – the
torture and ill-treatment
on how to help states

Forensic Evidence Takes Down Torturers in Central Asia

In June 2018, in a groundbreaking verdict, a Tajikistan court sent two law enforcement officers to prison for having tortured and driven an Islamic activist to suicide. The case hinged on a forensic medical examination – conducted by an expert trained by PHR – that proved that the victim had been tortured. It was the first time that a Tajik court had admitted a forensic medical evaluation as evidence of torture – and an extraordinary victory for PHR's years of work to end impunity for torture and ill-treatment in Central Asia. Since 2011, we have trained more than 1,000 medical and legal experts in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan to use the Istanbul Protocol, the internationally recognized standard for investigating and documenting torture and ill-treatment. Local networks of PHR-trained experts have worked with their countries' health and justice ministries, prosecutors' offices, and forensic institutions to carry out reforms that will secure accountability and redress for torture. Both Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan have officially recognized the Istanbul Protocol and adopted National Plans of Action to implement the standards and prevent these crimes from occurring in the future. Courts in both countries have convicted and jailed torturers based on forensic medical evidence. In a region where torture was entrenched and widespread, our work has brought a profound change in beliefs and attitudes – proof that PHR's long-term, patient investment in applying scientific and medical skills to human rights problems is changing lives around the world.



Guards stand in a remand prison in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. Photo: Vyacheslav Oseledko / AFP / Getty Images



Dr. Furkat Ganiev is the director of the Centre of Forensic Medicine of Sughd region, Tajikistan. Trained by PHR, he is now sharing those skills as a PHR National Trainer, teaching medical, legal, and law enforcement professionals how to investigate and document torture. Dr. Ganiev's forensic medical evaluation of an Islamic activist who committed suicide after being tortured secured his country's first-ever conviction for torture in 2018.

Dr. Furkat Ganiev A Key Link to Ending Torture

"Forensic experts are a key link to ending torture. If an expert uses forensic science techniques and validates his conclusions with modern laboratory methods, then those conclusions become irrefutable. The recent conviction of two Tajik law enforcement officers for torture was a very important precedent because our evidence helped prosecutors prove the crime: we were able to use objective data to show that the victim's injuries were completely consistent with the crime. It's a warning to other people that such actions are unlawful, and that the state will punish them for these acts.

Ten years ago, I never thought that I would be working on this issue. PHR gave a powerful motivational push for me personally. Through PHR, I gained a lot of experience, knowledge, and skills on issues related to torture. And the situation with torture in Tajikistan has changed fundamentally since PHR began its work."

Honoring Uncommon Courage and Bravery

PHR's 2018 gala honored four exceptional women health professionals for their courage and dedication to protecting the health and human rights of their patients. In the face of the U.S. administration's hardline policies at the U.S.-Mexico border, Dr. Norma Price, a retired physician and activist, provides crucial medical assistance to migrants crossing the Arizona desert. Pediatrician and public health advocate Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha uncovered the Flint, Michigan water crisis after her research showed that children there were being exposed to dangerous levels of lead. Alex Wubbels, RN, a registered nurse and clinical nurse educator, refused to compromise on hospital policy and was arrested when she prevented police from drawing blood from an unconscious patient. The three were presented with the 2018 Physicians for Human Rights Award by PHR Board Member and ACLU Executive Director Anthony D. Romero, who praised their "uncommon courage and bravery ... at the vanguard of the human rights movement." We also honored Dr. Nagham Nawzat Hasan, a doctor, PHR partner in Iraq, and Yazidi activist, who has dedicated her life to helping Yazidi survivors freed from captivity and sexual slavery at the hands of ISIS. To a standing ovation by gala attendees at the Mandarin Oriental in New York, she was presented with the 2018 Physicians for Human Rights Award by acclaimed actress and activist Julianna Margulies.



PHR honorees Alex Wubbels, RN, Dr. Norma Price, and Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha, and PHR Board Member and ACLU Executive Director Anthony D. Romero at the 2018 PHR gala.



Actress Julianna Margulies presenting doctor and Yazidi activist Dr. Nagham Nawzat Hasan with the 2018 Physicians for Human Rights Award at PHR's 2018 gala.

Photos: David Kotinsky / Getty Images

Volunteers

Every year, Physicians for Human Rights receives more than \$1.2 million in donated and in-kind services. We thank the many physicians, scientists, lawyers, and other health and legal professionals who volunteer their time and expertise to help us document and call attention to mass atrocities and severe human rights violations.

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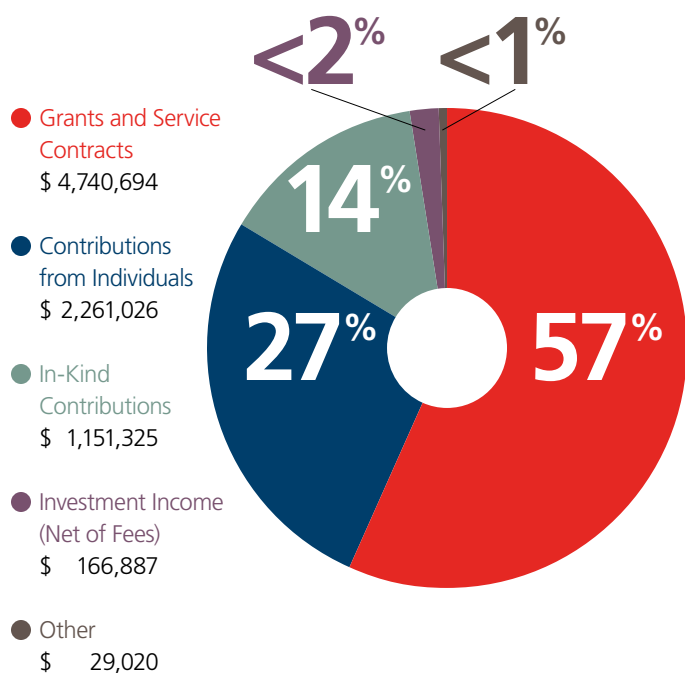
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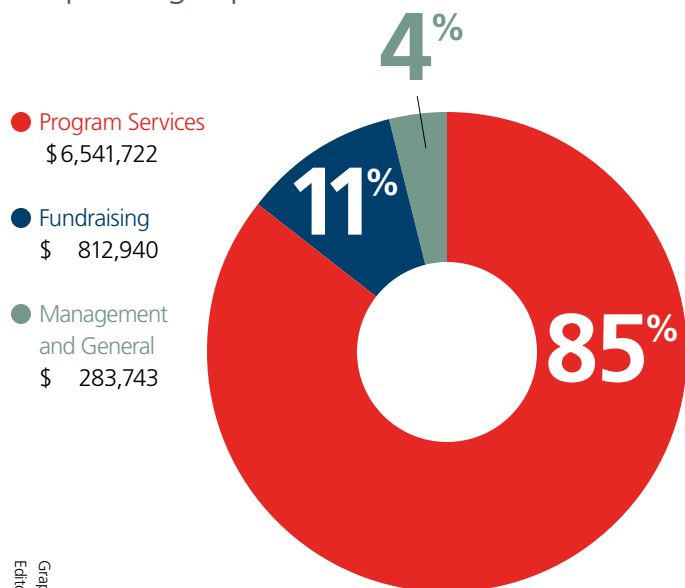
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Financials

Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2018 Operating Revenues



Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2018 Operating Expenses



Statement of Activities (for the year ending June 30, 2018)

Revenues

* Grants and Service Contracts	\$ 4,740,694
Contributions from Individuals	\$ 2,261,026
In-Kind Contributions	\$ 1,151,325
Investment Income (Net of Fees)	\$ 166,887
Other	\$ 29,020

Total Operating Revenues for FY18	\$ 8,348,952
Operating Expenses	\$ 7,638,405

Statement of Financial Position (for the year ending June 30 2018)

Assets

Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 2,626,248
Grant and Contribution Receivables	\$ 3,491,547
Prepaid Expenses and Other	\$ 211,191
Property and Equipment, Net of Depreciation	\$ 224,281
Investments	\$ 3,263,230
Deposits	\$ 54,608

Total Assets	\$ 9,871,105
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Liabilities and Net Assets

Line of Credit	\$ 487,432
Accounts Payable	\$ 216,728
Accrued Expenses	\$ 359,221
Deferred Rental Obligation	\$ 100,643
Unrestricted Assets	\$ 2,332,972
Temporarily Restricted Assets	\$ 6,374,109

Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 9,871,105
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* Includes Temporarily Restricted Contributions for Future Years

PHR received the highest rating for the fifth consecutive year, a distinction held by only 17 percent of the 1.1 million charities that are rated annually by Charity Navigator.





Physicians for
Human Rights

phr.org

For more than 30 years, Physicians for Human Rights (PHR) has used science and the uniquely credible voices of medical professionals to document and call attention to severe human rights violations around the world. PHR, which shared in the 1997 Nobel Peace Prize for its work to end the scourge of landmines, uses its investigations and expertise to advocate for persecuted health workers and facilities under attack, prevent torture, document mass atrocities, and hold those who violate human rights accountable.

Through evidence,
change is possible.



Shared in the 1997
Nobel Peace Prize