



Sudanese protesters outside the army complex in the capital Khartoum in April 2019.

Photo: Ashraf Shazly / AFP / Getty Images

You Are Standing with Doctors on Sudan's Front Lines

Since the start of the dramatic protests which led to last month's ouster of Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir, Sudan's medical professionals have been on the front lines, not only attending to the injured, but organizing and leading demonstrations. This has made them primary targets of the government's ruthless security forces, which have arrested and detained dozens of heroic doctors, conducted incursions and attacks inside medical facilities, and targeted, injured, and even killed health workers carrying out their medical duties or participating in the protests.

PHR has long called for al-Bashir to stand trial at the International Criminal Court on charges of crimes against humanity and genocide in the region of Darfur. When this latest crackdown occurred, we quickly reached out to Sudanese medical networks to get first-hand, real-time reports from health professionals in the heart of the protests. Our report "Intimidation and Persecution" showed that security forces committed massive violations of human rights, including

using disproportionate, unnecessary, and sometimes lethal force, and targeting, imprisoning, and killing medical personnel. PHR's reporting was picked up by more than 200 news outlets all over the globe. Your investment in our vital partnerships has made PHR one of the most widely-cited sources on the Sudanese uprising and helped us shine a spotlight on the government's vicious assaults on human rights.

To read the full report, visit:

phr.org/sudan-protests

You Speak Out When Border Patrol Turns Deadly



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

Running down migrants in high speed – and sometimes lethal – chases using helicopters, ATVs, horses, and dogs. Purposely destroying lifesaving water and food supplies. Shackling and restraining migrants while they are being treated in hospitals. Stopping ambulances carrying critically-ill patients and arresting volunteers who provide medical assistance to injured border crossers. These are just some of the ways in which U.S. border enforcement is threatening migrants’ safety, health, and even their lives, according to PHR’s recent report “Zero Protection.”

One oncologist described how she was unable to examine a terminally ill cancer patient with only weeks to live because officers would not remove the restraints that ran across the patient’s chest, arms, and feet. An asylum lawyer in Tucson told PHR that Border Patrol agents intent on finding and arresting undocumented people were “swarming” hospitals, roaming the halls, and profiling patients in waiting rooms. And we learned that in some border counties, people calling 911 for emergency medical services from the borderlands are automatically

re-directed to Border Patrol. As the U.S. crackdown on immigration escalates, your support is helping PHR deploy teams of researchers and doctors to border areas to investigate and expose the dire and deadly consequences of increasingly harsh measures to curb immigration. With doctors at our side, we are bringing a critical medical voice to our national and global advocacy in favor of more humane, law-respecting policies.

To read the full report, visit:
phr.org/zero-protection

Newsweek

“Stripping protections from children and adolescents – particularly those who are fleeing persecution in their country of origin and have endured traumatic experiences in transit before arriving in the United States – causes irreparable harm.”

Physicians for Human Rights

From Health Professional to Human Rights Advocate

The U.S. administration's draconian immigration policies are turning a vast new cadre of health professionals into human rights advocates.

Dr. Craig Torres-Ness reports here on his work with PHR to clinically evaluate migrants fleeing horrific violence in Central America and to advocate for them at the highest levels.

The youngest of three boys, Fernando* is a prime candidate for recruitment into El Salvadorian gang life. When he and his brother Brandon* were approached to join MS13, they refused. That refusal cost Brandon his life. He was taken away by the gang, and, the next day, his body was found in a ditch. Knowing that he was next, Fernando immediately went into hiding, eventually joining a migrant caravan heading north. But his troubles were far from over. By the time I met him at a clinic in Tijuana, Fernando had been tracked down by gang members and savagely beaten. As I examined the 18-year-old, I could still see the physical scars of the brutal assault – and I could sense how deeply traumatized Fernando was.

As a physician and part of PHR's Asylum Network, I had joined fellow doctors and researchers in Tijuana to gather evidence and conduct clinical evaluations of migrants waiting for their chance to present for asylum at the U.S. border. One hundred percent of the people we interviewed were suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder as a result of the violence they had fled in their home countries. Far from the demonized depiction of the migrants as nothing more than poor criminals, our research showed clearly that these individuals had legitimate asylum claims that deserved to be heard.

My PHR partners and I took our findings to Capitol Hill, and then to Geneva, Switzerland, where I had the opportunity to present our research at a side-event at the United Nations Human Rights Council. In front of a very receptive audience, I was able to share the story of Fernando and provide an objective, evidence-based perspective on how the United States' harsh immigration policies are harming him and others in this already very vulnerable population.

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As a physician at the University of Southern California, I have worked in Tijuana in a variety of capacities for the past decade. But joining forces with PHR and taking our findings literally around the globe to advocate for an end to this crisis has been deeply inspiring. I know that using the skills and objective voice of my medical training to highlight human rights abuses lends a credibility and moral authority that few other professions can bring to the fight. I believe it's my duty to use that voice, and I look forward to continuing to collaborate with PHR so that people like Fernando and the thousands of migrants like him can be given the dignity they deserve.

**Names changed for security reasons.*



PHR Asylum Network member Dr. Craig Torres-Ness measuring a scar on Fernando's arm at a clinic for migrants in Tijuana, Mexico.*

Leveraging Resources to Defend Human Rights

Alan K. Jones became Board Chair of PHR in March 2019. An investor with more than 30 years of experience in building and leading organizations, Jones most recently served as a managing director and head of global private equity at Morgan Stanley. He spoke with us about his vision for PHR's next phase of work and growth.

What drew you to Physicians for Human Rights?

I have always sought opportunities that have embedded leverage – the ability, with limited resources, to have a substantial impact in the world. What impresses me about PHR is its ability to punch above its weight – to have, for a small organization, such a significant impact on the world.

How do you hope your background and expertise in finance will strengthen PHR's work?

I've been very lucky in life and I was given the chance to have a wonderful education. My father worked in a factory, my mother died when I was a young kid – but we never wanted for anything. And I grew up with the notion that if you are lucky in that way, it's part of the bargain that you need to find a way to give back. I had long thought about how best I could do that. I ended up in business a little bit by accident. I was a biochemistry major as an undergrad and I thought I was going to be a doctor, but I didn't have enough money to go to medical school. I was very fortunate to get a job in finance that enabled me to pay off my student loans and pay for my education. Now, having spent three decades on Wall Street, I hope I've developed some skills about how to organize institutions and to help PHR ask the questions: How do we do a better job of using the resources that we have to make as big an impact as possible? Where does PHR's medical expertise allow us to do things that other organizations are not as well equipped to do? How do we decide strategically what to prioritize?



Board Chair Alan K. Jones at a recent strategic planning session at PHR with (from left) Board Member Dr. Donna Shelley and Executive Director Donna McKay.

What do you see as PHR's biggest opportunities?

The world, for better or worse, gives us no shortage of opportunities to pursue the good work that PHR does. I think we're probably seeing more human rights abuses in general. They may be growing in number. But it may also be that they are just more visible to us than before – and that's actually quite useful. In the spirit that sunlight is the best disinfectant, the fact that telecommunications is making visual evidence of human rights abuses broadly available means that we are now much more acutely aware of how pervasive the problems that PHR addresses are. And that's both our biggest challenge and our biggest opportunity.

Our strength is that we have a very clearly defined mission. We are going to see more and more opportunities to bring our medical skills to bear, and I hope to offer some organizational insights from the business world that help us think about how and where we can be most effective.

I don't come with a preconceived notion of, say, the five areas that I want us to add to our already active list of things to do. What I hope we can get to is: here are the kinds of areas where PHR needs to be the leader, and here are some related areas that are very much in "our lane," where PHR can provide evidence-based medical and forensic insight in a way that helps advance the conversation and the action of others, particularly local partners.

Where do you see PHR in five years?

The goal of PHR should be to put itself out of business. The goal for PHR should be that we all live in a world where human rights organizations are no longer required. But we will never live in a world like that. So, therefore, the goal for PHR has to be two things. One: how do we increase our resources so that we have a greater impact than we have today? And, two, how do we take what we already have and make our footprint even bigger?

“Justice Must Be Innovative”

PHR's Program on Sexual Violence in Conflict Zones director, Karen Naimer, presents MediCapt at MIT Solve, where the app won the “Frontlines of Health” award. Photo: Adam Schultz / MIT Solve



PHR's award-winning mobile app, MediCapt, is garnering broad attention on the world stage. After the app won the “Frontlines of Health” award at MIT Solve in September, PHR presented MediCapt at the inaugural “Stand Speak Rise Up! to End Sexual Violence in Fragile Environments” conference at the invitation of the Grand Duchess of Luxembourg in March. In April, the World Bank Group and the Sexual Violence Research Initiative recognized the app with its 2019 “Development Marketplace Award for Innovation in the Prevention and Response to Gender Based Violence.”

The first app of its kind, MediCapt streamlines the collection and preservation of forensic medical evidence for the prosecution of sexual violence crimes. By allowing clinicians to comprehensively document evidence

of sexual violence, safely store it, and securely transmit it via the cloud, MediCapt breaks down barriers that prevent survivors from accessing justice. Developed through a collaborative design process with our partners and steadfast support from our donors, MediCapt was launched in Kenya in 2018 and is already being used in patient evaluations there. It will be start being used with patients in the Democratic Republic of the Congo later this year.

Dr. Denis Mukwege, a longtime PHR partner who was awarded the 2018 Nobel Peace Prize for his work to end sexual violence in conflict, told a recent gathering of PHR supporters, “Justice must be innovative.” With the innovations of MediCapt, you are helping us make justice possible for survivors of these terrible crimes.



Renowned Congolese gynecologist Dr. Denis Mukwege, who was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his work to end sexual violence in conflict, speaking to a gathering of PHR supporters in April 2019. Photo: Michael Hnatov for Physicians for Human Rights

Honoring Uncommon Courage

“I made a covenant ... [to] use my voice for the men and women who are unable to speak,” Jaqueline Mutere, an activist and survivor of sexual violence in Kenya, told a rapt audience at PHR’s 2019 gala on April 11, the largest in our history. Accepting the Physicians for Human Rights Award on behalf of the Survivors of Sexual Violence Network in Kenya, she said: “Together [with PHR] our mandate is simple: to ensure that anyone who seeks help at a police station, a hospital, or at a community center will be treated with dignity and respect.” The award was presented by acclaimed actress and activist Julianna Margulies.

We also honored Dr. Scott A. Allen, an internal medicine physician, and Dr. Pamela K. McPherson, a child and adolescent psychiatrist, who together wrote a ground-breaking letter to the U.S. Senate Whistleblower Protection Caucus after seeing shocking conditions at U.S. migrant detention facilities. Margulies presented them with the 2019 Physicians for Human Rights Award, saying: “They provided the evidence that proves beyond the shadow of a doubt that detention is no place for a child.”

Through the exceptional generosity of supporters like you, the gala raised more than one million dollars, a record-breaking contribution to support our work around the world.



PHR honoree Dr. Pamela K. McPherson, PHR Board Chair Alan K. Jones, PHR Executive Director Donna McKay, PHR honoree Survivors of Sexual Violence in Kenya Representative Jaqueline Mutere, actress Julianna Margulies, and PHR honoree Dr. Scott A. Allen.



PHR Board Members Dr. Kathleen Foley and Dr. Gail Saltz and Oak Foundation Board Members Dr. Andy Rothschild and Dr. Barbra Rothschild.



Maimonides Medical Center President and CEO Kenneth Gibbs and Montefiore Medical Center President and CEO Dr. Steven M. Safyer.



PHR Board Members and Gala Co-chairs Dana C. Stone and Dr. Kerry J. Sulkowicz. Not pictured: Dr. Deborah D. Ascheim and Alan K. Jones.



Dr. Chithra Balasingham, Dr. Ravinder Tikoo, Kristin Auerbach, Peter Auerbach, Gloria Mosquera, and Reuven Oded.



PHR Board Member and ACLU Executive Director Anthony D. Romero and PHR Board Member Lois Whitman.

All photos by Michael Loccisano / Getty Images

Accelerating Our Growth

PHR is delighted to add three distinguished new members to our Board of Directors.



Adrian Arena

Adrian Arena is director of the Oak Foundation's International Human Rights Programme, which focuses on civil and political rights at both the national and international levels. A former Australian diplomat, Arena also served as deputy secretary-general of the International Commission of Jurists, a Geneva-based organization that promotes the global rule of law. He brings to PHR exceptional knowledge of the human rights field and of non-profit management, as well as long experience building north-south partnerships and networks.



Dr. Gail Saltz

Gail Saltz is a clinical associate professor of psychiatry at Weill-Cornell Medical College and a psychoanalyst with the New York Psychoanalytic Institute. In addition to her teaching and private practice, Dr. Saltz is a frequent media contributor, columnist, bestselling author, and podcast host. Dr. Saltz's expertise with messaging and the media will help PHR as we continue to grow our network, engage with health professionals, and expand our reach.



Dana C. Stone

Dana Stone is a social worker and occupational therapist practicing psychotherapy in New York City. Her clinical practice focuses on psychodynamic psychotherapy, cognitive behavioral therapy, conflict resolution, crisis intervention, divorce, and family mediation. In addition to her clinical skills, Stone brings to PHR extensive experience in board leadership, fundraising, and organizational strategy.

PHR Named 2019 Dropbox Foundation Partner

PHR is proud to announce that we've been named a 2019 Dropbox Foundation partner. This partnership will provide PHR with unrestricted funding to support our mission and programs, and the opportunity to work side-by-side with Dropbox staff through a skills-based staff volunteering program. The foundation works alongside human rights organizations to help them respond more effectively to humanitarian crises and human rights violations. Among other support, the new funds will allow PHR to create a new position to help leverage corporate and academic partnerships.



You Exposed Myanmar's Murderous Assault on the Rohingya

In the wake of a brutal campaign of violence by Myanmar authorities that drove most of the country's Rohingya Muslims into neighboring Bangladesh, PHR sent teams of doctors to conduct clinical evaluations of survivors and carried out an extensive survey of village leaders representing more than 900,000 Rohingya refugees. A shocking 88 percent told us that violence had occurred in their village, the vast majority perpetrated by Myanmar security forces. PHR's unique research revealed a widespread and systematic pattern of

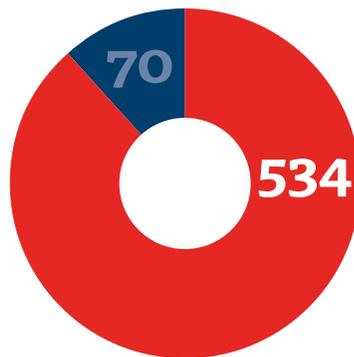
targeted violence – including rapes and killings of women, men, and children. We took our findings to the United Nations Human Rights Council (HRC) in Geneva, where we called for them to be investigated as crimes against humanity; the HRC then created an international independent mechanism to collect and preserve evidence for future judicial processes. PHR's numerous reports and evidence are making an important contribution to these critical accountability efforts.



“The Myanmar government’s apparent gambit is that if it turns a deaf ear long enough to the international opprobrium about the slaughter of the Rohingya and the humanitarian crisis of the refugee camps in neighboring Bangladesh, foreign investor interest in Rakhine’s oil and gas, agriculture, and fishing sectors will inevitably help mute the calls for accountability.”

Phelim Kine, PHR Director of Research and Investigations

Of 604 surveyed leaders of Rohingya hamlets, 534 reported violence



Perpetrators of Violence against the Rohingya

The percentage of Rohingya leaders interviewed by PHR who identified attackers of Rohingya hamlets, by type of perpetrators identified.



46%
Identified Civil Government Perpetrators



67%
Identified Civilian Extremist Perpetrators



87%
Identified Military/Tatmadaw Perpetrators



90%
Identified Border Guard Police Perpetrators



Physicians for Human Rights

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 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.



Shared in the 1997 Nobel Peace Prize

phr.org

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

