



PHR

Through Evidence,
Change Is Possible

Physicians for Human Rights
Annual Report 2017



This page: In Bangladesh's Balukhali refugee camp, PHR's Dr. Rohini Haar interviews a Rohingya woman who witnessed the murder of her extended family in Myanmar and then ran with her children across the border. Her baby almost died when she ran out of breast milk. One older child, who was separated from the family during the chaos of their flight, is still missing.

All Bangladesh photos: Salahuddin Ahmed for Physicians for Human Rights

A woman wearing a yellow headscarf and a patterned pink and green sari is holding a baby in a red shirt. They are both looking towards the left. The background is a blurred wooden structure.

We're Building a Global Network of Health Professional Human Rights Defenders

This is a difficult moment for human rights, one in which facts are challenged, basic protections are under assault, and hard-won norms are being eroded at every turn.

But it is also a moment in which we are witnessing great courage from those who refuse to give up their freedoms and to allow others to violate human rights. And we are seeing the remarkable power of evidence to bring human rights abusers to justice.

We know that justice can best be achieved when people and communities are empowered to bring evidence to light – and we know that health professionals have a special role to play in standing up to lies and tyranny. Across the globe, PHR is galvanizing the energy of the moment to create a network of medical professionals to do just that. From Bangladesh to Congo, from Iraq to Kenya, PHR partners are using the unassailable facts of forensic medicine and scientific investigation to document human rights crimes and make sure that those who commit them are held accountable. What's more, through PHR trainings around the world, they are passing those skills on to colleagues and seeding an ever-growing global cadre of human rights defenders.

The network that PHR is building is achieving extraordinary successes around the globe. Your invaluable support is what allows us to do this critical work. Thank you.

Donna McKay
Executive Director

Kerry J. Sulkowicz, MD
Board Chair

Cover: A 10-year-old Rohingya girl living in Balukhali refugee camp in Bangladesh looks at an x-ray showing bullet fragments lodged in her hip and pelvis. PHR doctors who examined the girl confirmed that the image is highly consistent with her account of being shot as she fled into the water to escape Myanmar security forces who massacred her village and killed her parents. The girl and her brother are the only survivors of their 16-person household.

A Genocide Foretold

The shocking violence that has forced nearly 700,000 of Myanmar's Rohingya minority to flee the country was foreshadowed in 2016, when government security forces waged a brutal campaign of assault, detention, and extortion, and blocked access to medical services for vast numbers of Rohingyas in Myanmar's northern Rakhine state. PHR's report "Where There Is Police, There Is Persecution" exposed the Burmese authorities' pervasive violation of Rohingyas' human rights; it was widely distributed by our local partners and deeply enhanced their advocacy efforts.

Amidst the Myanmar government's full-out assault on the Rohingya community that has been years in the making, PHR is intensifying our work to document the horrific physical and sexual violence suffered by thousands upon thousands of Rohingya men, women, and children – to help prevent further violence against this population, and so that the perpetrators will one day face justice for their bloody crimes.



"A report released by the charity Physicians for Human Rights in October denounced the many checkpoints that choke the roads of northern Rakhine, describing them as 'places of extortion and humiliation, where Rohingya people are perpetually reminded of their marginalised status.'"

In the Network:

Dr. Parveen Parmar

Using Forensic Medicine to Counter False Narratives

"The Rohingya crisis is one of the worst situations I've seen in my human rights career. PHR's voice is critical – we bring a lens that no other organization brings. We provide the forensic evidence that proves to the world that these atrocities occurred. It is my hope that our work will help drive the world not just to speak out against the violence, but to act."

Dr. Parveen Parmar is a longtime human rights advocate who founded a PHR student chapter while still in medical school. Chief of international emergency medicine at the University of Southern California's medical school, Dr. Parmar has been investigating human rights abuses in Myanmar for the past decade and coauthored a 2010 PHR report on the oppression of Rohingya Muslims. She was part of a PHR team that traveled to Bangladesh in late 2017 and early 2018 to document injuries suffered by Rohingya refugees and is a key part of our ongoing work to reveal and advocate against persecution of the Rohingya.



Dr. Parmar documents the injuries of a Rohingya man who was shot in the arm while fleeing a brutal attack by the Myanmar military. The bullet severed the nerves to his arm, which he can no longer use. His identity is being hidden for security reasons.



This 15-year-old Rohingya girl was struck on the head with a machete by Myanmar security forces who massacred her village and was left, unconscious, in a house they then set on fire. She awoke to feel her hands, feet, and back in flames and crawled to safety in the jungle before crossing to Bangladesh. She and two others were the only survivors of her 21-member family.

"The thing that really strikes me is that – despite all the horrors we've been seeing – what we're seeing are the lucky ones, who were able to survive trekking across the jungle for days to get here – even if they've had landmine injuries, or gunshot wounds, or burns."

PHR's Dr. Rohini Haar in the Rohingya refugee camps in Bangladesh



Perpetrators in the Kavumu child rape case being marched through the village where more than 40 little girls were raped.

Justice for the Children of Kavumu

Physicians for Human Rights contributed to a stunning victory for justice in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), where authorities convicted 11 men, including a powerful regional lawmaker, for the systematic rape of dozens of young children in the small South Kivu village of Kavumu. The 2017 verdict represents a landmark step in the fight against impunity for rape in the DRC, a country plagued by decades of sexual violence and hamstrung by a lack of forensic and legal infrastructure – and, often, political will – to prosecute difficult cases.

In close collaboration with local and international partners, PHR worked tirelessly for several years to secure justice for the girls, all under the age of 13 and some as young as 18 months, who were abducted from their homes in the dead of night, raped, mutilated, and left in their yards or in fields outside the village.

It took enormous courage for these young survivors and their families to come forward, and we made sure that they had the evidence to support their cases. PHR medical, legal, and justice experts helped analyze records of the case, trained Congolese health professionals working directly with the survivors on how to conduct comprehensive medical evaluations, assisted in the collection of physical and psychological evidence, and provided technical assistance to the court to protect witnesses in groundbreaking ways.

The historic verdict was an extraordinary testament to how the meticulous gathering of evidence and collaboration of professionals across multiple sectors can help win justice for the most vulnerable. And by making clear that perpetrators cannot escape justice, PHR is helping erase the culture of impunity that allows sexual violence to be used as a weapon of war.



In the Network:

Dr. Désiré Alumiéti

“Together, we were unstoppable”

“With this judgement, the Congolese justice system has taken a great step forward: the girls, the children of Kavumu, have regained their right to protection. It was very hard for me, after having provided medical and psychological care for these children, to then have to forensically document the trauma they had suffered. Sometimes I felt depressed – but the courage of others was an antidepressant for me. I salute the solidarity that was created around these children. Together, we were unstoppable.”

Dr. Désiré Alumiéti is a pediatric surgeon at Panzi Hospital in Bukavu, South Kivu, which has treated tens of thousands of women and girl survivors of sexual violence, a brutal weapon wielded in the Democratic Republic of the Congo’s long civil war. Trained by PHR in forensic documentation, Dr. Alumiéti has documented countless cases of sexual violence. Over the past three years, he

has worked closely with PHR experts to document the horrific injuries suffered by dozens of little girls who were raped in the village of Kavumu – evidence which helped lead to a landmark verdict against the perpetrators.

Dr. Alumiéti, pictured with PHR partners (left) Capt. David Kazadi Nzengu and (right) Sgt. Honorata Uwoya Fwaling. Photo: Platon for the People’s Portfolio



Frederic Batumike, center, a Congolese lawmaker who was convicted of crimes against humanity for leading a militia that raped dozens of little girls in Kavumu.



REUTERS

“This trial demonstrated that justice can be served in the Congo, when an investigation is effectively carried out and evidence is methodically collected, even when the accused wield significant power and are highly organized.”

Karen Naimer, director of PHR’s Program on Sexual Violence in Conflict Zones

Protecting the Course of Justice in the Congo

These survivors and witnesses in the Kavumu child rape trial are wearing head-to-toe coverings to hide their identities as they prepare to testify in court. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, witnesses are sometimes forced to show their faces to the alleged perpetrators or to stand before spectators and defendants – putting both themselves and their testimony at risk. In a groundbreaking move, PHR and local and international partners successfully advocated for robust witness identity protection in the Kavumu case, encouraging the court to allow witnesses and survivors to be identified by a number instead of by name, to testify behind a screened-off area, to appear in a closed court not open to the public, and to have their voices altered by voice-modification technology.

"[One] witness became very emotional while she was speaking," says PHR police and justice expert Georges Kuzma, who worked for years with local Congolese partners to ensure that sound forensic and physical evidence in the case was properly collected, documented, stored, and entered into the record. "But with the rigorous protection measures in place, she said she was motivated to speak and provide whatever information she could that would be helpful in bringing justice. That's an incredible breakthrough."







Safeguarding Evidence in Rape Cases

The challenges of securing justice for sexual violence in resource-constrained countries are myriad; one of the most vexing obstacles is collecting and safeguarding evidence. PHR's award-winning MediCapt mobile documentation app enables clinicians to collect, securely store, and safely share forensic medical evidence – while maintaining chain of custody and preserving patient privacy. In 2016, we field-tested MediCapt at three hospitals in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and introduced a new printing feature, which gives patients a copy of the forensic medical form that can help to empower them as they pursue a legal process. We also prepared to launch MediCapt in Kenya in 2018 as a precursor to its extension to other non-African countries.

In the Network:

Dr. Muriel Volpellier

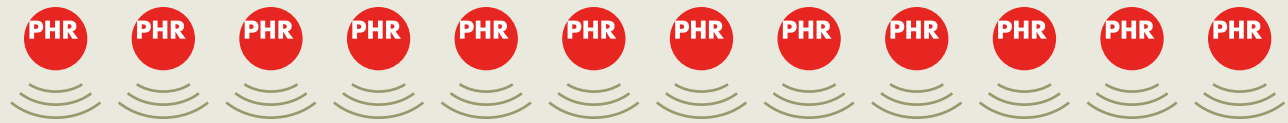
Building Links in the Chain of Justice

"The beauty of PHR is that not only are we training the doctors, but also the police officers and the judges, starting a dialogue between these people who make up the criminal justice system. Every little link of the chain is fundamental and it's fantastic to be able to strengthen this chain."

Dr. Muriel Volpellier is an internationally-recognized expert on sexual health and human rights, and has trained doctors and nurses around the world in the forensic examination of sexual assault and documentation of torture. She began working with PHR in the DRC in 2014 and was a key member of the PHR team that supported the five-year investigation of the Kavumu child rape case. Dr. Volpellier also works with PHR in Iraq to advance the forensic examination and treatment of survivors of sexual violence, particularly of Yazidi women who were sexually enslaved by ISIS.

Dr. Volpellier, lead doctor of forensic medicine at Haven Paddington, St. Mary's Hospital in London, conducting a training of medical professionals in the DRC.

12 PHR-trained local trainers



trained

1,045 professionals



+



+



Amplifying the Fight Against Sexual Violence

PHR is continuing our groundbreaking work to promote South-South collaboration in the fight to end the scourge of sexual violence. Using PHR's unique multi-sectoral approach, a dozen PHR-trained local trainers in Kenya taught more than 1,000 medical workers, lawyers, police, and justice professionals how to investigate, document, and prosecute cases of sexual violence. PHR's global network of human rights defenders also expanded into a new country this year, with PHR-trained Congolese partners using their skills to train colleagues in the Central African Republic.



PHR's Dr. Ranit Mishori (left) leading a training on pediatric forensic documentation in Kenya.

In the Network:

Dr. Nagham Nawzat Hasan

An Advocate for Survivors of Sexual Slavery

“Nearly 100 percent of the Yazidi women who survived ISIS sexual slavery have devastating psychological issues: constant sadness, constant pain, constant lack of confidence, lack of trust, loss of hope in the future, and fear of anyone around them. Without the support of the international community, the perpetrators will not be held accountable for what they did. Physicians for Human Rights is providing the most important step for all of us, and that is to teach us the correct way to document these terrible crimes. Working with PHR is what keeps me strong and gives me hope and keeps me going forward.”

Dr. Nagham Nawzat Hasan is a Yazidi activist and medical doctor in Dohuk, Kurdistan Region of Iraq who has focused her career on promoting gender equality,

combating sexual and gender-based violence, and caring for survivors. After the 2014 ISIS takeover of Sinjar district and nearby Yazidi villages, Dr. Hasan dedicated her life to helping survivors freed from ISIS captivity and sexual slavery and speaking out on their behalf.

Dr. Hasan with Yazidi survivors of ISIS sexual slavery, in Dohuk. Dalal (center), 16, was a high school student when she was captured by ISIS in 2014, and was sold as a sex slave 20 times before being freed by the Iraqi army in September 2017. Farida* (right), 28, a mother of four, was captured and sold 15 times before the Kurdistan Regional Government bought her freedom in 2016. Dr. Hasan conducted medical evaluations of the women and provides them with ongoing psychological and medical support.*

**Not their real names.*



Arming the Legal Battle Against ISIS Slaveholders

In the summer of 2014, a reign of terror descended on Iraq's Kurdistan region as ISIS fighters overran the district of Sinjar and surrounding villages, massacring men from the Yazidi ethnic minority and kidnapping thousands of women and girls to be used as sex slaves. Girls as young as eight years old were bought and sold, some repeatedly, and subjected to harrowing torture and sexual violence. Though many captives have escaped or been freed, almost 3,400 Yazidis are still missing. The UN Secretary-General is appointing a team to investigate the case as a possible genocide.

To help secure justice for survivors and witnesses of these atrocities, PHR is spearheading an effort to train local medical, legal, and justice professionals on how to document and collect evidence of international crimes by ISIS; we are focusing on violations committed against the Yazidi population and the allegations of genocide through sexual slavery and violence. With your critical support to PHR, Iraqis are being empowered to help document these terrible crimes and bring ISIS perpetrators to justice.

*A Yazidi woman who fled ISIS sits in a refugee camp in Iraqi Kurdistan's western Dohuk province.
Photo: Ahmad al-Rubaye /AFP/Getty Images*

Documenting the Gruesome Toll of War

As Syria's conflict ground on, Physicians for Human Rights repeatedly called upon our extensive expertise and networks on the ground to document and speak out about the devastating consequences of the fighting. With our report "Access Denied," we showed how the Syrian government deliberately and illegally manipulated UN humanitarian access to millions of people trapped in besieged and hard-to-reach areas of the country.

When bombs carrying suspected poison gas descended on the town of Khan Sheikhoun, PHR's researchers quickly reached out to our network in Idlib province, while our medical experts analyzed first-hand reports and photo and video evidence from medical personnel on the ground. Within hours, we were able to state that the attack had all the hallmarks of an assault with a prohibited nerve agent.

And amidst the months-long offensive to wrest the city of Raqqa from ISIS control, PHR researchers reached contacts in an area almost completely inaccessible to the outside world. We showed that the fighting had devastated the city's health care system, leaving virtually no emergency services or rescue personnel at a time when civilian casualties were skyrocketing. Our critical research, including our ongoing mapping of attacks on Syria's health care, is relied upon by local and international policymakers at the highest levels, and cited regularly in the global media.



*A man receives treatment after a suspected poison gas attack on the Syrian town of Khan Sheikhoun in April 2017.
Photo: Mohamed al-Bakour/AFP/Getty Images*

Hospitals in the Crosshairs. Again. And Again. And Again ...

Hospitals and health facilities have been open targets during the seven-year Syrian conflict, in flagrant violation of international norms that protect medical care in times of war. PHR's Syria mapping team has documented 330 facilities which have been struck, the vast majority of them by government forces and their Russian allies.

The evidence of intentionality is clear: 79 of the health facilities that were attacked were struck at least twice. Eight hospitals were attacked five times or more. Al-Sakhour Hospital, the largest hospital in opposition-held east Aleppo, was attacked fully 11 times; dozens of people were injured and 11 killed in the endless succession of airstrikes and barrel bomb assaults on the facility.

These Attacks are Not Accidental

330 Syrian hospitals and health facilities have been attacked

79 have been attacked at least twice

Attacked 5 times

Hakeem Hospital
Aleppo

Attacked 5 times

Shifa Hospital
Saraqib

Attacked 5 times

al-Ihsan Hospital
Saraqib

Attacked 6 times

al-Bayan Hospital
Aleppo

Attacked 7 times

Omar Bin Abdul Aziz Hospital
Aleppo

PHR's interactive map showing attacks on health care in Syria can be found at: phr.org/syria-map.

In the Network:

Dr. Hala Ghawi

A Voice for Syria's Victims of Torture

"Members of my family were arrested and abused by the Assad regime, and many of my colleagues lost their lives under torture simply because they were carrying out their humanitarian duty. I have committed myself to this work, because it might someday help bring justice to the survivors and their families. Building peace in Syria cannot happen without justice, and, by documenting these cases, I can play a role in rebuilding Syrian society."

When war broke out in Syria and medical facilities came under attack, surgeon Hala Ghawi began providing care in secret field hospitals – which made her a target for government forces. Her husband,

also a doctor, was arrested, imprisoned, and tortured. Dr. Ghawi and her family fled to Jordan, where she was trained in forensic documentation by PHR and began documenting cases of torture and sexual violence among the Syrian refugees she worked with. A key PHR partner and recipient of the 2016 Physicians for Human Rights Award, Dr. Ghawi is now a women's protection and empowerment consultant in Gaziantep, Turkey, and continues to document evidence of the war crimes being committed every day in her country.

Dr. Ghawi speaking with a man who was arrested and tortured by Syrian authorities. His father, who was arrested with him, is still missing.



The Boston Globe

"Today we are seeing another cruel method of warfare emerge on the battlefield: the weaponization of disease, particularly in Syria and Yemen... As hospitals, clinics, and water treatment and sanitation facilities have become targets, civilian survivors of bombs or bullets or poison gas have fallen victim to previously controlled infectious diseases."

Homer Venters, MD, PHR director of programs

The New York Times

"As physicians and medical professionals, we'll be watching closely to see whether or not Mr. Trump carries through on his campaign promises of bringing back torture. If so, we'll be ready to fight him at every step."

Donna McKay, PHR executive director

In the Network:

Dr. Scott A. Allen

Ensuring That Doctors Do No Harm

"Physicians and health care professionals often find themselves on the front lines providing medical care to patients who are vulnerable or under threat. It is critical for health professionals to recognize that their professional responsibilities go beyond just providing medical care. Health professionals have an affirmative duty to protect their patients' dignity and basic human rights."

Dr. Scott Allen's work in health and human rights began at the age of 17, listening to the stories of Khmer Rouge torture survivors who had escaped to refugee camps in Thailand. A lifelong human rights defender, he has been a PHR medical advisor on torture for the past decade, delving into the treatment of Iraqi prisoners at Abu Ghraib, the CIA's interrogation program, and the participation of health professionals in U.S. torture. Dr. Allen was the lead medical author of four PHR reports, including our 2017 investigation into human experimentation and the CIA torture program, and has worked extensively with PHR to ensure that American medical associations prohibit illegal and unethical practices by health professionals.

Dr. Allen, Professor Emeritus of Clinical Medicine at the University of California Riverside's School of Medicine, examining Libyan prisoner of conscience Fathi al-Jahmi. Photo: Fred Abrahams/Human Rights Watch





The Secret U.S. Human Experimentation Program Exposed

PHR's decade-and-a-half investigation into medical complicity in U.S. torture helped achieve a milestone in accountability in 2017. The architects of the CIA torture program – two American psychologists who designed and implemented the use of brutal methods – settled an historic lawsuit with three former national security detainees, one of whom was tortured to death. The lawsuit, filed by the American Civil Liberties Union against Drs. James Mitchell and Bruce Jessen, included charges of human experimentation, which PHR first documented in 2010 and detailed extensively in our 2017 publication “Nuremberg Betrayed: Human Experimentation and the CIA Torture Program.” The report was based on an analysis of thousands of pages of new documents and years of research. It shows that the country's post-9/11 torture program was also an illegal, unethical regime of experimental research on unwilling human subjects – one of the gravest breaches of medical ethics in American history.

This work adds to PHR's long record of shining a light on U.S. torture, uncovering the role of health professionals in the shameful practice, and pressuring medical associations to bar their members from national security interrogations and detention sites that violate international law.

*A military guard carries shackles at
Guantánamo Bay detention center.
Photo: John Moore/Getty Images*

“No!” to Turkey’s Assault on Doctors

The Turkish government has waged a decades-long campaign to repress Kurdish populations in the country’s restive southeast. Physicians for Human Rights researchers traveled to the area in 2016 and produced a report showing how Turkish security forces deliberately and illegally obstructed access to health care – causing hundreds of deaths – and punished health professionals for delivering treatment to the wounded and sick, in direct violation of medical neutrality principles.

After Turkey’s failed military coup in 2016, thousands of professionals – including medical workers – were fired from their jobs, jailed, arrested, or tried on specious charges. When authorities put on trial Dr. Şebnem Korur Fincancı, the head of the country’s largest human rights organization, and Dr. Serdar Küni, the first Turkish doctor to be charged simply for following his ethical duty to treat a patient, PHR responded with the full force of our advocacy and expertise. We led a global campaign for Dr. Fincancı’s release and provided court arguments in Dr. Küni’s defense. Both were subsequently released. Our solidarity with our medical colleagues demonstrated that Turkey’s flagrant abuse of human rights is being watched by the world.



*Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan delivering a speech in January 2017.
Photo: Adem Altan/AFP/Getty Images*

In the Network:

Dr. Metin Bakkalcı

Standing Up for Health Professionals Under Threat

“All these years, our struggle for the prevention of torture and gross human rights abuses has grown stronger thanks to our collaboration and solidarity with PHR.... In these not-so-bright days in which we are witnessing the devastation of human rights values all around the world, I see our comradeship with PHR as a vitalizing and enriching journey that gives us the power to resist for today and to maintain our hopes for tomorrow.”



Dr. Metin Bakkalcı has been working to prevent torture since he was a medical student. A general practitioner and longtime PHR partner, Dr. Bakkalcı was a pioneer in helping to draft the Istanbul Protocol, the internationally recognized guidelines for the investigation and documentation of torture and ill treatment. He is the secretary general of the Human Rights Foundation of Turkey, whose rehabilitation centers have treated 17,000 torture survivors since its founding in 1990.

Dr. Bakkalcı speaking outside the 2016 trial of fellow Turkish human rights advocate and PHR partner Dr. Şebnem Korur Fincancı.

The New York Times

“In late September 2016, Turkish police arrived at Dr. Küni’s home in Cizre.... ‘I was thinking, all I have done is treat people and help them survive difficult times,’ Dr. Küni told me. The prosecutor accused him of being a member of a terrorist organization. Dr. Küni spent the next six months in prison, waiting for his trial.”

*Christine Mehta,
PHR researcher*




In the Network:

Dr. Rusudan Beriashvili

Transforming Ideas About Torture

“Five years ago, in lots of settings in Central Asia, it was impossible to utter the word ‘torture’ or to say out loud that torture exists. Now, there’s a network of thousands of people who are involved in documentation and investigation. Thanks to the Istanbul Protocol, and PHR’s work, the situation in Central Asia regarding torture has completely changed.”

Dr. Rusudan Beriashvili is an expert in forensic medicine with more than 20 years’ experience combating torture around the world. Dr. Beriashvili has trained thousands of people in Asia, Central Asia, Eastern Europe, and the Middle East in the Istanbul Protocol. She is leading PHR’s project to help governments and civil society across Central Asia implement these standards and create a culture that no longer tolerates torture.



Dr. Beriashvili, who teaches forensic medicine at Tbilisi State Medical University in Georgia, leading a PHR training.



Turning Skeptics into Human Rights Defenders

Five years of work by PHR in Central Asia has brought a sea change in attitudes around torture, a practice traditionally relied upon by government authorities in the region to extract confessions from detainees. As part of our global work to end torture, PHR has trained more than 1,000 medical and legal experts in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan – many of them initially skeptical – to use the Istanbul Protocol, the internationally recognized standard for documenting and investigating this crime. We are encouraging policy and legislative reforms and helping strengthen infrastructures to investigate and prosecute torturers; based on our success in Central Asia, we are in the process of expanding our work to include Ukraine and other countries. With current efforts focused on creating sustainable networks of local trainers, PHR is aiming to dramatically amplify our efforts to build cultures of accountability and end impunity for torture globally.

*Kyrgyz police officers on parade in Bishkek.
Photo: Vyacheslav Oseledko/AFP/Getty Images*



When “Less Than Lethal” Weapons Kill

In the summer of 2016, Indian security forces killed at least 87 people and injured more than 9,000 others in clashes with protesters across the northern Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir. Using our deep expertise on crowd-control weapons, Physicians for Human Rights conducted an investigation and published our report “Blind to Justice: Excessive Use of Force and Attacks on Health Care in Jammu and Kashmir, India,” showing how Indian authorities used 12-gauge shotguns loaded with birdshot against protesters. The authorities claimed the weapons were “less than lethal,” but PHR’s forensic experts found the weapons to be lethal. We analyzed medical and forensic information that revealed how indiscriminate and excessive force had caused fatalities and injuries, and highlighted that security forces blocked access to hospitals. Our findings were widely cited by media and used by local groups for advocacy, including the Kashmir High Court Bar Association, which used our evidence to argue before the Supreme Court of India to ban the use of shotguns. In a victory for public safety, the Court directed the central government in May 2017 to consider means other than the use of shotguns against protesters in Jammu and Kashmir.

AP Associated Press

“At close range, such weapons have the force of live ammunition. And at a distance, the pellets disperse and can take an unpredictable trajectory, meaning they can indiscriminately inflict severe injury on nonviolent protesters or bystanders, particularly when those pellets strike the head, neck, face, or eyes.”

Dr. Rohini Haar, PHR medical expert

A PHR investigation showed how indiscriminate and excessive use of crowd-control weapons like these tear gas shells fired by Indian police caused injuries and fatalities during 2016 protests in Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir. Photo: Tauseef Mustafa /AFP/Getty Images

In the Network:

Dr. Rohini Haar

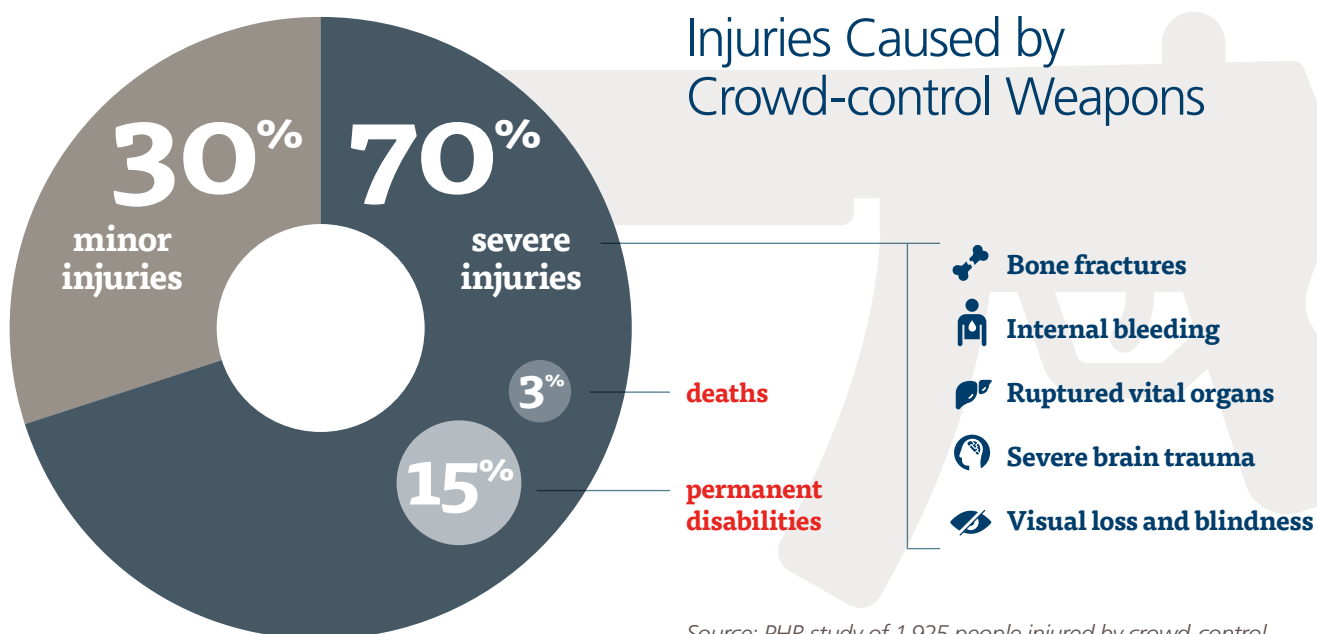
The Stories That Bodies Tell

"Bodies tell stories. As doctors, we're the ones who know how to translate those stories. To be able to corroborate the things that people say happened to them is powerful. To me that's important work and I'm proud to do it, because accountability matters. It's not just for the international law experts – being able to have that kind of closure matters to the victims of human rights abuses and their families. And it matters for the world to know."

Dr. Rohini Haar is an emergency medicine physician and expert on health and human rights at the University of California, Berkeley, who focuses on the protection of human rights in times of complex humanitarian crisis and conflict. She has been involved with PHR since medical school, and wrote a key 2016 PHR report that showed how so-called less than lethal crowd-control weapons are causing injury, disability, and death around the world.

Dr. Haar recently accompanied a PHR team to Bangladesh to investigate severe human rights abuses against Rohingya refugees.

Dr. Haar examining a Rohingya boy at a refugee camp in Bangladesh. The boy's arm had to be amputated when it became infected after he was shot by Myanmar security forces while fleeing his village.



Source: PHR study of 1,925 people injured by crowd-control weapons over 25 years, cited in our report "Lethal in Disguise: The Health Consequences of Crowd-control Weapons."

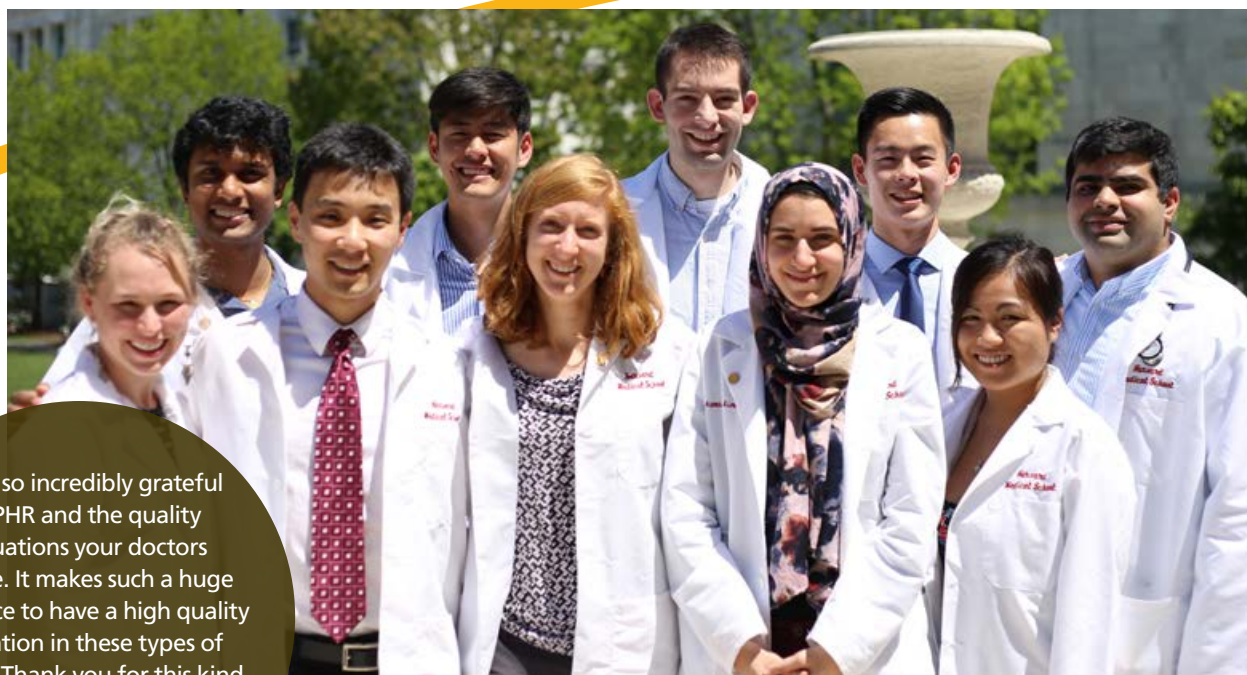
Combating Xenophobia with Evidence

In response to virulent anti-immigrant rhetoric and heightened risks for immigrants and asylum seekers, Physicians for Human Rights sharply stepped up its work on behalf of people seeking sanctuary in the United States from persecution and violence. We saw a surge in health professionals who wanted to donate their time to help these most vulnerable people: volunteer PHR clinicians conducted a record 670 forensic medical examinations of asylum seekers to corroborate accounts of human rights violations in support of their asylum claims. Our Asylum Network, comprising volunteer health professionals from across the country, reached a record 1,000 members.

We embarked on a new push to inspire the next generation of medical professional human rights activists, holding trainings attended by hundreds of clinicians and medical students at Columbia, Brown, and Yale Universities. Network clinicians opened new PHR-affiliated asylum clinics at Harvard University, the University of Connecticut, and the University of Southern California. These clinics are ensuring a medicine-centered approach and a robust multiplier effect for PHR's work supporting asylum seekers who have suffered so much.



*Candida Ayala, originally from Paraguay, holds an American flag as she becomes a U.S. citizen in November 2016.
Photo: Joe Raedle/Getty Images*



"I am so incredibly grateful for PHR and the quality evaluations your doctors provide. It makes such a huge difference to have a high quality evaluation in these types of cases.... Thank you for this kind and important work!"

*Kara Wilson,
asylum lawyer*

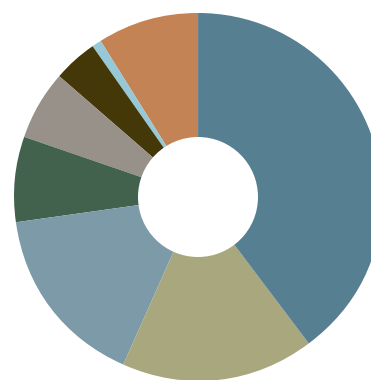
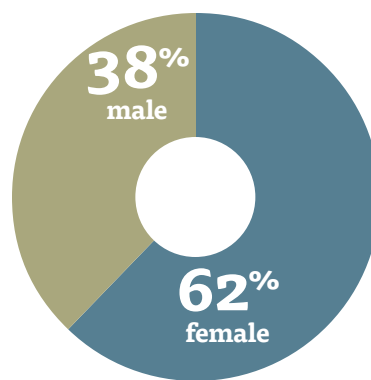
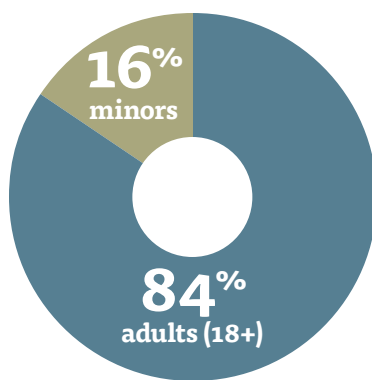
Members of the Harvard Student Human Rights Collaborative, the PHR student chapter and asylum clinic at Harvard Medical School.

PHR's Asylum Network at Work

For those seeking asylum in the United States, a PHR forensic evaluation can be a crucial asset: 90 percent of reported asylum outcomes that include an evaluation performed by a PHR Asylum Network volunteer are successful. These graphics show the age, gender, countries of origin, and grounds for asylum of the people for whom we helped secure safe haven in the United States in 2017.



The asylum-seekers PHR volunteers helped in 2017 came from 39 countries around the world.



Types of Persecution

- Domestic violence: 40%
- Sexual violence: 17%
- Gang violence: 16%
- Foreign detention: 7%
- LGBTI: 6%
- Female genital cutting: 4%
- One-child policy: 1%
- Unspecified: 9%

In the Network:

Dr. Katherine Ratzan Peeler

Inspiring the Next Generation of Human Rights Defenders

"Students are energetic, creative, and won't allow injustices to go unnoticed. I hope to empower them and to show them that they can continue human rights work, even through the tough years of residency and fellowship, and even when one's clinical practice seems overwhelming. It's easy to let the course of life lead you away from your student ideals, but I hope I am able to show them an example of how to pursue one's idealism."

Dr. Katherine Ratzan Peeler, a pediatrician and longtime human rights defender, first connected with PHR as an undergraduate and founded a PHR student chapter while studying medicine at Dartmouth. She joined PHR's Asylum Network in 2010, and has since helped nearly 20 asylum seekers by using her forensic evaluation skills to support their asylum applications. When she joined the faculty of Harvard Medical School, Dr. Peeler helped establish the Harvard Student Rights Collaborative, supporting PHR's new effort to expand the number of medical school-based PHR asylum clinics.



Putting Bosnian Serb War Criminals Behind Bars

At a time of great challenges in the fight for human rights, 2016 and 2017 brought a triumph for international justice when former Bosnian Serb leaders Radovan Karadžić and Ratko Mladić were convicted of genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity for their roles in the Bosnian war 20 years earlier. After years of evading arrest and subsequent proceedings in The Hague, the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) found the two men responsible for some of the worst atrocities in Europe since World War II, including the murder of more than 7,000 Muslim men and boys in and around the town of Srebrenica.

The verdicts rested partly on evidence meticulously gathered by a team of international Physicians for Human Rights archeologists, anthropologists, and pathologists led by Dr. William Haglund, who exhumed and examined remains from mass graves, including many of those at Srebrenica. PHR's findings showed victims were murdered, many with their hands tied behind their backs, shot in the back of the head, and dumped in shallow graves. Dr. Haglund, who at one point slept at the edge of a mass grave to ensure that no one would tamper with the evidence, provided important testimony during the ICTY's proceedings.

The convictions were a potent confirmation of the extraordinary power of evidence – and the idea that while justice may take time, in the end, it will be delivered.



Former Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadžić awaits his verdict at the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia. Photo: Robin Van Lonkhuijsen/ AFP/Getty Images



The Washington Post

"This is a momentous day for international justice, but also for those in Bosnia who lost husbands and wives, sisters and brothers, sons and daughters in a coordinated campaign of violence."

Susannah Sirkin, PHR director of international policy and partnerships

A woman mourns over the coffin of a victim of the 1995 Srebrenica massacre. PHR contributed testimony to the international court that convicted the perpetrators. Photo: Matej Divizna/ Getty Images

2017 Gala: A Celebration of Humanity

PHR honored Dr. Şebnem Korur Fincancı, one of Turkey's most prominent and intrepid human rights defenders and a longtime PHR partner, at our annual gala in April 2017. Dr. Fincancı, who is awaiting trial in Turkey for supporting a freedom of speech campaign, urged guests to leverage the uncertainty of the times to advance human rights. "In whatever way you can, bring your strengths to the table. Fight for the rights of others ... be a beacon for others to follow!" she told the gathering at Jazz at Lincoln Center's Frederick P. Rose Hall.

We also honored British publisher and philanthropist Sigrid Rausing for her pivotal support of the human rights movement. "Sigrid Rausing is nothing short of a lifeline to advocates on the front lines of human rights struggles," said PHR Board Member Justice Richard J. Goldstone as he presented Rausing with the 2017 Physicians for Human Rights Award. George Soros, one of the world's leading philanthropists and a previous PHR honoree, made a surprise appearance to congratulate Rausing, and the president of Soros's Open Society Foundations announced an \$8 million challenge grant to catapult PHR into a new era of human rights advocacy.



*Dr. Şebnem Korur Fincancı, winner of the 2017 Physicians for Human Rights Award, at PHR's gala.
Photo: Andrew Toth/Getty Images*

Winner of the 2017 Dodd Prize

PHR was deeply honored to receive the Thomas J. Dodd Prize in International Justice and Human Rights in 2017. At the award ceremony at the University of Connecticut, one of the top academic human rights programs in the United States, PHR was cited for its "innovation and courage in seeking justice and accountability for the perpetrators of atrocities."



Volunteers

Every year, Physicians for Human Rights receives nearly \$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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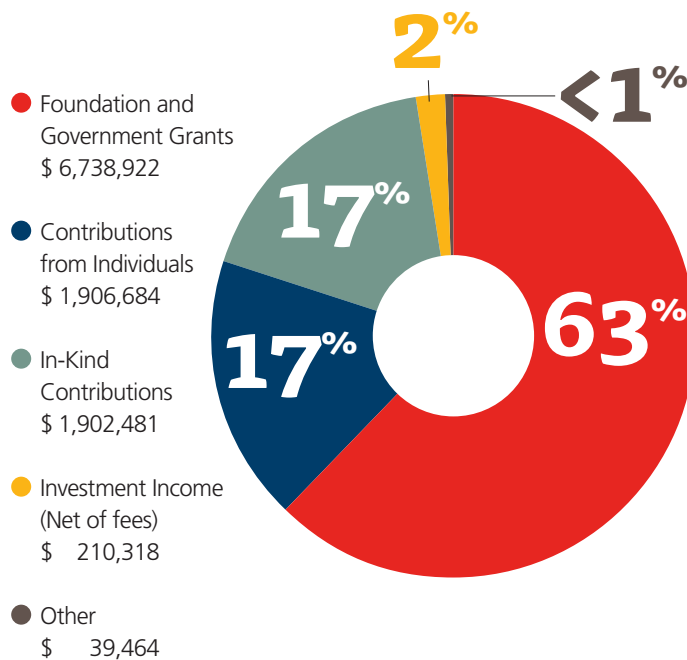
Celebrating 20 Years



In 1997, the Norwegian Nobel Committee awarded the Nobel Peace Prize to the International Campaign to Ban Landmines and its coordinator, Jody Williams. As a pioneer in exposing the public health threat of landmines, and as a founding member of the campaign, PHR shared in the Peace Prize. But our work is far from done: despite the International Mine Ban Treaty, signed by more than 80 percent of the world's governments, landmines still kill and maim thousands of men, women, and children every year.

Financials

FY17 Operating Revenues



Statement of Activities (for the year ending June 30, 2017)

Revenues

Foundation and Government Grants	\$ 6,738,922
Contributions from Individuals	\$ 1,906,684
In-Kind Contributions	\$ 1,902,481
Investment Income (Net of fees)	\$ 210,318
Other	\$ 39,464

<i>Total Operating Revenues for FY17</i>	<i>\$ 10,797,869</i>
<i>Operating Expenses</i>	<i>\$ 8,592,913</i>

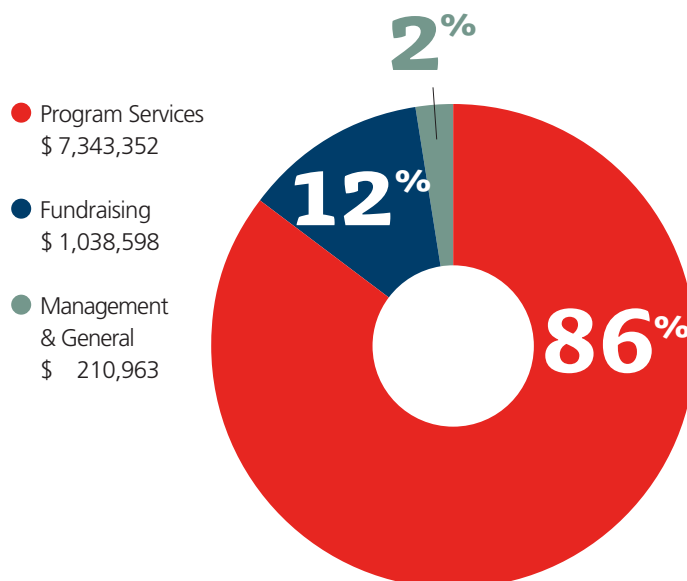
Statement of Financial Position (for the year ending June 30, 2017)

Assets

Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 4,338,920
Grant and Contribution Receivables	\$ 2,053,269
Prepaid Expenses and Other	\$ 99,016
Property and Equipment, Net of Depreciation	\$ 279,455
Investments	\$ 3,378,408
Deposits	\$ 54,408

<i>Total Assets</i>	<i>\$ 10,203,476</i>
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FY17 Operating Expenses



Liabilities and Net Assets

Line of Credit	\$ 1,482,812
Accounts Payable	\$ 244,579
Accrued Expenses	\$ 347,884
Deferred Rental Obligation	\$ 88,949
Unrestricted Assets	\$ 1,790,130
Temporarily Restricted Assets	\$ 6,249,122

<i>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</i>	<i>\$ 10,203,476</i>
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We are proud to have received Charity Navigator's highest rating for four consecutive years.



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 Nobel Peace Prize for its work to end the scourge of land mines, 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.



Nobel Peace Prize
Co-laureate