



GENEVA FOR HUMAN RIGHTS Global Training

GENEVE POUR LES DROITS DE L'HOMME
Formation Internationale

GHR ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT 2017

(adopted by GHR General Assembly of 19 June 2018)

IT IS TIME FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Many human rights principles, declarations, and conventions have been adopted by the United Nations (UN) and other inter-governmental organizations, such as the International Labour Organisation, UNESCO, and regional organisations. Many monitoring mechanisms and procedures have been set-up. In spite of this, the international human rights system remains weak. It lacks effective implementation. As we celebrate the 70th Anniversary of the *Universal Declaration on Human Rights* (UDHR), let us recall that the **implementation** of human rights and the follow-up to UN recommendations and decisions depend on each country: not the UN, but the States have to realize human rights. To bridge the **gaps** between UN standards and the realities, *Geneva for Human Rights* (GHR) focuses its training activities on **developing national capacities**.

Progress in the UN is generally slow. End 1947, following resolutions of the UN General Assembly and of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), the Commission on Human Rights created three Working groups to draft the first human rights documents, one on a declaration, one on a convention, and one on implementation. One year later, the draft Declaration was finalized, and adopted in Paris (10 December 1948). For the convention, it took 18 more years to the UN Assembly to adopt the *International Covenants on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights* and on *Civil and Political Rights* (16 December 1966).

Gradually, several treaty monitoring mechanisms were set-up by several human rights conventions creating Committees to review the implementation by States parties.

More delicate was the reaction to serious human rights abuses committed by the member States. From 1947 to 1967, the rule was the 'no power' doctrine: the Commission had 'no power to take any action in regard to complaints regarding human rights'¹. Finally, in June 1967, the ECOSOC gave the Commission and its expert body, the Sub-Commission, the authority to 'examine information relevant to gross violations of human rights', and in certain situations, to take action concerning complaints in the field of human rights². And, in May 1970, ECOSOC adopted the main provisions for a confidential complaint procedure³.

Increasingly, country situations were raised and referred to in debates of the Sub-Commission, the Commission and the ECOSOC. The difficulty remained to take effective action, namely to obtain a majority in the superior UN bodies on country resolutions. The first initiatives came from the South. With India in the lead, long before the public and confidential procedures were established, the UN had made a first exception to the principle of non interference for South Africa and its Apartheid policy⁴. Later, at the initiative of Arab States, the Assembly established a *Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Population of the Occupied Territories* (December 1968). And, at the request of the Assembly, the Commission on Human Rights appointed in February 1975 an *Ad Hoc Working group to inquire into the situation of human rights in Chile*. Since then, the Commission, and currently the Human Rights Council, adopted each year dozens of country resolutions, often with a monitoring mechanism in the form of a Working group or a Special Rapporteur, and, today, sometimes with a Commission of Inquiry.

A majority to condemn Argentina could not be reached. The Commission therefore created a procedure on the main pattern of abuses committed in Argentina, on enforced or involuntary disappearances (1980). It was the first UN thematic procedure. Since then, year after year, the Commission added other thematic procedures. There are currently 44 thematic procedures, most of them being entrusted to one single expert.

The creation of this system is largely due to the work of NGOs, victims and defenders, who submitted first-hand information, advocated the creation of new procedures and used the new

¹ ECOSOC Resolutions 75 (V) and 76 (V), 5 August 1947.

² ECOSOC Resolution 1235 (XLII) of 6 June 1967,

³ ECOSOC Resolution 1503 (XLVIII) of 27 May 1970.

⁴ General Assembly Resolution 616 A (VII) creating the Commission of Three, 5 December 1952.

procedures to denounce the violations. Several courageous initiatives and stands from the UN Secretariat were also critical. Another main actor was the Sub-Commission, whose experts prepared high quality reports, most of them being at the origins of UN declarations, conventions and procedures. Involved in the first stages of the confidential procedure, the Sub-Commission also adopted during the 90s resolutions on many countries.

Not surprisingly, States directly affected multiplied initiatives to weaken a system which was unanimously confirmed at the 1993 World Conference. The first aim of hardliner States was to obtain the dismissal of a Director for human rights, to silence the Sub-Commission experts, as they could not control them. The Sub-Commission was ordered no longer to adopt country resolutions, and later, not to adopt thematic resolutions mentioning countries. This will of the States to avoid the Sub-Commission's scrutiny on human rights abuses strongly influenced the suppression of the Sub-Commission, when the Human Rights Council was created, and its replacement by a group of experts, who would only make studies, and only at the request of the Council.

The second target was, and still is, to oppose country resolutions in the UN bodies, and to weaken the thematic procedures. A code of conduct was introduced for the Rapporteurs (... instead of a code for the violators ...).

The third practice was targeting the messengers, victims and witnesses, their defenders and human rights organizations submitting reports and complaints. Reprisals against those contributing to the UN procedures became a practice all over the world.

We start our Annual Report with this reminder of a dark reality, to explain the broadening of our action: we cannot teach the use of international procedures without joining efforts to preserve and reinforce these procedures. We cannot continue to train defenders who become potential targets from repressive States without protecting them. We therefore wish to be actively involved in the current reform of the Human Rights Council and of the Treaty Bodies.

February 2018
Adrien-Claude Zoller, President

WE ARE A TRAINING ORGANISATION

Our Objectives

Geneva for Human Rights – Global Training (GHR) is a **training organization**. Through training, study and protection, we aim to **bridge** the gaps between the international decisions and recommendations and the realities. We want to **empower** all those involved in human rights promotion and protection. Our *Global Training Department* (GTP) conducts each year dozens of Courses in Geneva and in the regions. Our *Department of Human Rights Policy Studies* (HPS) supports these training activities by monitoring and analyzing UN human rights meetings.

Themes of GHR Courses

In all its Courses and Seminars, in Geneva and in the regions, GHR trains defenders on:

- the fundamentals of international law, international human rights law, humanitarian law and criminal law, including the tools of transitional justice;
- the trends in international relations;
- the inter-governmental organisations (IGOs);
- the UN structure and its main bodies (incl. ECOSOC's thematic Commissions);
- the Human Rights Council ('HR-Council') and its mechanisms;
- the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), and the contribution of the civil society;
- the Special procedures and the drafting and submission of communications;
- the treaty monitoring bodies and the preparation of shadow reports;
- the Office of the High Commissioner (OHCHR), its priorities and field operations;
- the preventative measures and strategies to protect human rights defenders;
- the strategies to raise issues and situations at regional and international level;
- the national implementation strategies: implementing all the UN decisions and recommendations (resolutions, Special procedures, UPR, concluding observations of treaty bodies); elaborating and realizing public policies and national plans of action and in the field of human rights; the national institutions.

What we achieved in 2017:

- **two Geneva Courses** for the ordinary sessions of the HR-Council in March and September; and **one introduction Course** to the June session of the Council;
- **two Expert Seminars**, on **Enforced Disappearances** (March), and on **Indigenous Peoples' rights** (July); and an **Inter-Governmental event** on the ratification of the Convention on Enforced Disappearance (September);
- the operations of our **implementation projects**, in particular the **Papua project**, and the project on **enforced disappearances**;
- **several courses and briefings** during the sessions of the **UPR Working group** for NGOs coalitions from **Morocco, Philippines, India, Indonesia**;
- **In-Country Courses** in **India, Nepal** and **Russia**;
- the contribution to the presence in Geneva of **Forum Asia (Bangkok)** and of the **Dominican Order**;
- **a dozen lectures** for our partners, in particular universities and the **OHCHR**.

OUR GLOBAL TRAINING DEPARTMENT

Human rights organizations and defenders in the regions constitute the major engine for UN special procedures and treaty bodies. They provide essential information and proposals for the UN mechanisms and procedures. However, they find it difficult to follow UN negotiations and the innovations in the HR-Council, the special procedures, the treaty bodies, and the action of OHCHR. Our Courses have to bridge these **information gaps**, to meet the needs and priorities of these defenders, to enable them to adapt their work to the new realities.

Our Global Training Department has **three Programmes**: on the **Human Rights Council (PRE)**, on **Implementation** in the Countries (**INP**) and for **Specific Stakeholders (TSS)**.

Programme No. 1

'Participation of the Regions in the Human Rights Council'

This Programme aims at full participation of defenders from the regions in the work of the HR-Council and its mechanisms, and at the effective use of human rights special procedures. GHR conducts many Courses and Seminars **in Geneva** and **in the regions**. We received in 2017, financial support from several foundations and from the Government of **Liechtenstein**.

1. THE GENEVA COURSES OF GHR

In 2017, GHR conducted two Geneva Courses during ordinary sessions of the HR-Council and one Introduction Course to the Council.

Profile of the Geneva Courses

- The Geneva Courses for defenders from the regions are **advanced** Courses to train trainers. They are a unique **intensive and interactive training**, combining the **theory**, the exchanges of experience between participants (**field situations**) and the **exposure** to the multilateral **reality** (in the HR-Council), which the trainees monitor. Since its creation, GHR has realized this Course **at each session** of the Commission on Human Rights and its Sub-Commission, at sessions of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), and **at regular sessions** of the HR-Council.
- **Each Geneva Course has two parts:**
 - ✓ **the General Course (Week-1)** to introduce the international system (international law; international relations; UN bodies; HR-Council and its mechanisms, including the UPR; special procedures; treaty bodies);
 - ✓ **the daily morning classes (Week-2)**, every day, to introduce the themes of the day on the agenda of the HR-Council and the reports of OHCHR' and Special Rapporteurs submitted to the HR-Council; and to analyze the debates in the HR-Council; every afternoon, the trainees attend the session of the HR-Council.

- **Conditions for the certificate**

- ✓ To obtain the Course's certificate, trainees have to submit a note on the main patterns of rights abuses in their country; several summaries of the debates in the HR-Council and of the morning classes; and a draft communication to a UN thematic procedure on a case of human rights abuses. These papers are read out, discussed and improved during the morning classes.
- ✓ The trainees also stand weekly tests on the teaching of the previous week. This helps the trainers to monitor the impact of their teaching and the progress made by each trainee. It incites participants to review the Course and read several reports. Those getting an insufficient mark in the first test receive additional (separate) briefings from the trainers.

40th Geneva Course (GCS-40)
(25 February to 10 March 2017)

21 defenders attended the 40th Geneva Course conducted during the 34th session of the HR-Council

Nine participants were defenders from the regions, from Georgia, Russia, Congo-DR, Nepal, Indonesia, Australia, Fiji, and 2 from West Papua (Indonesia). Five other defenders present in Geneva for the *International Consultation on Papua* attended the first week of the Course, They came from West Papua (4) and from Germany. The other trainees were GHR interns and fellows from India, Ireland, Germany, Switzerland (3) and the USA.

Trainers were Edward Flynn (Ireland) and Adrien-Claude Zoller (Switzerland). Mr. Ruki Fernando (Sri Lanka) introduced a session on the UN and Sri Lanka.

The General Course took place from 25 February to 3 March, with the full-day class on Saturday 25 February on the international system, the UN bodies, the UN reform, human rights standards and the human rights mechanisms and procedures. The week included specific Courses on the UN and human rights; the HR-Council and its mechanisms, the Special procedures (and how to write to thematic mandate holders); women's rights; the international human rights standards; the UPR; and treaty bodies.

The morning classes of the second week were devoted to the reports submitted to the HR-Council, the debates in the HR-Council, and the papers of the participants. Additional Courses were given on human rights defenders; torture, International Humanitarian and Criminal Laws; transitional justice; and enforced disappearances. GHR trainers met individually the trainees from Georgia, Russia, the DRC, West Papua, and Nepal to prepare their specific follow-up activities in their countries.

The course's recapitulation and GHR course on implementation in the countries were presented during the last class on 10 March. The farewell dinner during which 15 trainees received a certificate took place on Friday evening 10 March,.

41st Geneva Course (GCS-41)
(11 to 22 September 2017)

17 defenders attended GHR 41st Geneva Course conducted during the 36th session of the HR-Council

Seven defenders came from the regions: Russia (Daghestan), Tanzania, Congo-DR, Eritrea, Zimbabwe, Indonesia, West Papua (Indonesia). The other participants were interns and fellows from India, China, South-Korea, Poland, Turkey, Italy (3), Germany and Spain. Trainers were Edward Flynn and Adrien-Claude Zoller. A former trainee from the Philippines, Ron de Vera, animated one morning class.

The General Course took place from 12 to 16 September, with the full-day course on Wednesday 13. The special courses concerned enforced disappearances; transitional justice; the OHCHR; the use of the special procedures; and UPR.

Additional Courses were given during the second week on women's rights; the UN and indigenous peoples; country situations in the HR-Council; women's rights and obstetric Fystula; International Humanitarian Law; International Criminal Law; treaty bodies; and strategies for human rights implementation.

Private follow-up meetings were held with the trainees from Russia, DRC, Eritrea, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Indonesia, and Papua. During the final dinner of the Course on Thursday 21 September, 16 trainees obtained their certificate.

Introduction Course to the HR-Council
(Geneva, Ecumenical Centre, 2 June 2017)

Together with the *Churches' Commission on International Affairs (CCIA) of the World Council of Churches (WCC)*, GHR conducted a one-day *Introduction Course to the 35th session of the Human Rights Council* for 22 students, interns, fellows and NGO workers going to monitor the debates in the Council, and to advocate on specific issues.

The Course was opened by CCIA Director Peter Prove and moderated by Clementine Gaspar from the WCC. Adrien-Claude Zoller, Tiffany Pagès and Maréva Roduit introduced the three segments of the Course on the introduction to the international protection system; the HR-Council and its mechanisms; the programme of work; and the main challenges of the 35th session.

2. GENEVA SPECIFIC SEMINARS DURING THE UPR

The Universal Periodic Review (*UPR*) is an important additional tool to implement human rights inside countries. GHR elaborated a specific training scheme, covering all the stages of the UPR process: contribution to the State's report; preparation of the stakeholders' reports; review of the country in the UPR Working group; adoption of the report by the Group, and then by the HR-Council; follow-up in each country. GHR also contributed to the creation of *UPR-Info*, a documentation and communication tool for the stakeholders.

In its Courses, GHR explains the potential NGO contribution. It teaches the long-term perspectives, the cooperation with the States, the use of all UN recommendations (special procedures, treaty bodies and UPR), to implement all rights in each country. Obviously, each UPR Course has to address the specificity of the situation in each country.

As many NGO coalitions come to Geneva to attend the review of their country, GHR offers briefings and orientation at each UPR session.

Course for defenders from Morocco
(Geneva, April and May 2017)

At the request of the *Friedrich-Ebert Foundation (FES)*, GHR assisted members of the Moroccan '*Association Adala pour le droit à un procès équitable*' (hereafter '*Adala*'), who came to Geneva on the occasion of the review of Morocco during the 27th session of the UPR Working Group, which took place from 1 to 12 May 2017.

With several NGOs and in partnership with FES Morocco, Adala had prepared the stakeholder's report for the review of Morocco. Ira Engel (FES) and Adrien-Claude Zoller (GHR) held a first briefing for two Adala members attending the UPR pre-session (4 and 5 April) to explain the process in Geneva, analyze the Moroccan NGOs recommendations and facilitate contacts with diplomatic missions.

From 1 to 4 May, GHR conducted a Course for the Moroccan coalition present in Geneva. It included a general course on the UPR process, the analysis of the priorities of Moroccan NGOs, the monitoring of the review of Tunisia, the assessment of the outcome of the review of Morocco, the drafting of a press statement and the follow-up strategies.

Assisting partners from the Philippines
(Geneva, March, May and September 2017)

Following a side-event by the *United Evangelical Mission (UEM, Wuppertal)* on 15 March 2017 GHR met the General Secretary of the *United Church of Christ in the Philippines (UCCP)* and discussed the best ways to support Filipino NGOs in the UPR process.

On 4 May 2017, GHR met the Filipino NGOs and discussed their programme until the review of the Philippines of 8 May 2017. This review was disturbing, as the Government tried to justify the 'cleaning' of the streets with summary killings, and brutally attacked UN Special Rapporteurs, in particular the one on summary executions.

The main human rights organisations from the Philippines spoke the next day at the Conference convened on 9 May 2017 by the WCC and moderated by Clementine Gaspar.

On the same afternoon, GHR gave a briefing to this NGO Delegation. The trainer of GHR analyzed the attitude of the Governmental Delegation. He explained how to deal with the recommendations made during the review. On short term one had to focus on the

'deferred' recommendations (those for which the Government did not take a stand during the review, but has to define its position before the UPR report adoption during the HR-Council of September). He also proposed elements for a strategy during the coming year.

After the adoption of the UPR report of the Philippines, GHR and the WCC convened a working meeting with Filipino NGOs and partners in Geneva to assess the achievements of the UPR process and prepare the follow-up activities in the country (25 September).

Support to the coalition of Indian NGOs

(Geneva, Ecumenical Centre, April, May and September 2017)

GHR intervened in the meeting convened by the WCC with the delegation of Christian Churches in India (7 April). The meeting was chaired by Clementine Gaspar. The delegation highlighted increasing gaps in income distribution and religious intolerance.

For the review of India, GHR invited two of its partners to Geneva, Kirity Roy (a former GHR trainee) and Dipyaman Adhikary. The day after the review, GHR participated in the side-event convened by the Indian NGO delegation (5 May). During the discussion, Adrien-Claude Zoller commented on the follow-up to the recommendations and on the future strategies to implement international recommendations and to raise the Indian situation in the UN, in particular through the use of the thematic procedures.

GHR also met the NGO coalition from India during the 36th session of the HR-Council, on the occasion of the adoption of the UPR report of India (21 September). During this meeting participants prepared GHR post-UPR training held in Delhi on 3 October 2017.

NGOs from Indonesia and Papua in UPR

(Geneva, Palais des Nations, May and September 2017)

A former GHR trainee, Wensislaus Fatubun, spoke in the name of the *Forum of Commissions for Justice, Peace and Integrity of the Creation of West Papua* at the UPR Pre-session of Indonesia, convened by *UPR.Info* (4 April).

Invited by GHR to Geneva, Filep Karma, a former political prisoner, intervened during NGOs on the UPR Indonesia (3 May). Another GHR trainee from Papua read out the joint statement of NGOs before the HR-Council on the occasion of the adoption of the UPR report of Indonesia (21 September).

3. TRAINING FELLOWSHIP FUND FOR DEFENDERS FROM THE REGIONS

Created in 2006, our *Training Fellowship Fund for Defenders from the Regions* enables GHR to offer fellowships to be trained in the *Geneva Courses*. A fellowship for a defender from the regions covers the fees for the course, the travel expenses to and from Geneva, and the cost of living in Geneva. The Bureau of GHR Executive Council awards the scholarships following the recommendations of GHR advisors and partners. In 2017, the Ebert Foundation (Geneva), UEM (Wuppertal), and the *European Human Rights Advocacy Centre* (EHRAC) contributed to the Fund. Fellowships were awarded to trainees from Georgia, Russia, Zimbabwe, Congo-DRC, Tanzania, Indonesia and Nepal.

4. PERMANENT REPRESENTATION IN GENEVA OF NGO'S FROM THE REGIONS

The HR-Council meets practically permanently in Geneva, with every year three ordinary sessions, three UPR sessions, special sessions, working groups on major issues. NGOs and defenders cannot each time undertake the expensive trip to Geneva. Thus, their effective participation in the work of the Council necessitates a permanent presence in Geneva.

Strengthening the presence of Forum Asia (FA) in Geneva

Over the last ten years, convinced that the active participation of defenders and organisations from the regions is crucial for the work of the HR-Council, GHR significantly contributed to the opening and strengthening of Forum Asia's Office in Geneva. In 2017, GHR continued to actively support the strengthening of FA in Geneva. As a Board member

of the organisation, Adrien-Claude Zoller provided advice on institutional matters (statutes, by-laws, registration, tax exemption, working contracts).

Strengthening the Office of the Dominicans in Geneva

GHR continued to help consolidate the Representation of the Dominican Order at the UN. Adrien-Claude Zoller attended the Board meetings of the Swiss-based association. He provided advice on administration and financial management. Throughout the year, he held a dozen meetings devoted to the drafting of by-laws, financial procedures, jobs description and working contracts and request for tax exemption.

GHR also attended the conference organized by the *Dominicans for Justice and Peace* on 24 January in the UN Council Room on '*Francisco de Vitoria and the inception of the principles of the UN*'.

Orientation to the Tibetan communities in Geneva

In 2017, GHR provided advice and orientation to the Tibetan communities in Geneva, in particular to the Tibetan Office and the Community of Tibetans in Geneva, on the best ways to elaborate peaceful initiatives to obtain real autonomy and respect of human rights inside China. GHR helped them to convene side-events during each session of the HR-Council and to prepare the European Rally of March 2018.

From 6 to 8 October 2017, GHR also attended the international conference 'Five-Fifty: Shaping Tibet's Political Future' convened in Dharamshala, India, by the Department of Information and International Relations (DIIR) of the Central Tibetan Administration (CTA).

5. IN-COUNTRY AND IN-REGION COURSES

In 2017, GHR Courses took place in India, Nepal and Russia.

Course on UPR implementation (*Indian Social Institute, New Delhi, 3 October 2017*)

Convened jointly by the *Indian Social Institute* and *Asian Centre for Human Rights (ACHR)*, GHR **Course on the follow-up to UPR** was attended by 17 defenders from the following Indian human rights NGOs and network: *Indian Social Institute* and *ACHR*, *Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative*, the *Working Group on Human Rights in India*, the *National Christian Council in India*, the *Secretariat of the Catholic Bishops' Conference*, *Peoples Watch*, *Human Rights Alert*, and the *Alliance for Defending Freedom in India*.

The Course took place on 3 October 2017 in the *Indian Social Institute* and was chaired by Denzil Fernandes, Director of the Institute. Adrien-Claude Zoller conducted the Course, with comments from Suhas Chakma (ACHR).

The morning session was devoted to the presentation of the UPR mechanism in the context of the UN Reform and of the creation of the HR-Council. The recommendations accepted by India were also reviewed.

During the afternoon, the trainer presented strategies to elaborate and implement public policies and a national plan of action in the field of human rights. He highlighted the need for a need assessment and for a compilation of all the recommendations addressed to the country concerned, including by the special procedures and the treaty bodies.

Briefing on the religious freedom in the UN (*NCCI, New Delhi, 13 October 2017*)

On the afternoon of 13 October, at the invitation of the *National Council of Churches in India (NCCI)*, Adrien-Claude Zoller gave a briefing on the issue of **religious freedom in the UN**. Catholic and Protestant representatives participated in the brainstorming.

Briefing for partners in Nepal (*Kathmandu, 16 October 2017*)

From 15 to 18 October, Adrien-Claude Zoller stayed in Kathmandu to meet with former trainees in the *Geneva Courses* and main human rights partners. On 16 October, at the

invitation of *INSEC*, he gave a briefing on the **transitional justice and the recent trends in the HR-Council**. The meeting was chaired by *INSEC* President, Subodh Pyakurel, who reviewed the mechanisms of transitional justice recently set-up in Nepal. *Adrien-Claude Zoller* explained the origins of the theme transitional justice in the UN and the obligations of the States. The discussion focused on the current situation in Nepal, who was elected in the HR-Council on the same day.

Course on UN procedures for Russian lawyers
(*ILPP, Moscow, 30-31 October 2017*)

25 Russian lawyers and barristers coming from all parts of the Russian Federation attended GHR Course on **international procedures** convened by the *Institute for Law and Public Policy (ILPP)*. The Course took place in the conference room of *ILPP* on 30 and 31 October 2017. It was opened by Olga Sidorovich, Director of the *ILPP*, and chaired by Olga Podoplelova, Senior lawyer, *ILPP* Litigation Unit.

The first morning was devoted to the presentation of the participants and of the main problems they were working on. The discussion highlighted several patterns and thematic priorities to be addressed during the Course. Then, Adrien-Claude Zoller started the Course with introductions on the UN and Human Rights, and on the HR-Council and its Mechanisms.

The Course of the first afternoon focused on the UPR and the special procedures. At the end of the day, the participants received the assignment to prepare a draft letter to one of the UN thematic procedures.

The second day opened with a recapitulation of the course of the previous day. A dozen trainees presented their draft letters. The trainer and the participants commented on these communications and specified the best way to draft such documents. The morning ended with a synthesis on the mechanisms and procedures of the HR-Council.

The treaty-based procedures were dealt with during the last afternoon. Both the periodic reports of the Russian Federation and the individual communications to the Committees were dealt with. At the end of the Course, participants compared this system with the one of the European Court system, and the trainer concluded with remarks on the best practices regarding implementation.

Programme No. 2

'Implementation Now ! (INP)

GHR has a programme to promote the implementation of human rights in specific countries through training, mediation, advisory services and teaching strategies.

6. GHR MEXICO PROJECT: LEARNING FROM OUR EXPERIENCE

At the request of the Mexican Ministry of Interior, with the support of the Swiss Ministry of Foreign Affairs (*FDFA*), GHR contributed to the elaboration and to the implementation of the first stages of Mexico's national Programme for human rights (2004-2008). As Mexico joined the OECD, development funds were no longer available. The *FDFA* phased-down its Mexico Programme (2007) and the Swiss Federal Council stressed the importance of GHR work:

'Switzerland will be withdrawing from its commitment in Mexico at the end of 2007. The process described above has made a significant contribution towards the urgently required implementation of a uniform national plan for the promotion of human rights. The fact that a Swiss human rights organisation has successfully acted as mediator between civil society and government and supported the Mexican Ministry of the Interior through the provision of expertise represents a good example for implementing similar projects in other countries'

(*FDFA*, 'Peace and human rights in Switzerland's foreign policy - Report 2006'
approved by the Swiss Federal Council on 15 June 2007, p. 18)

Our Mexico project was evaluated (2007) to learn from this experience and elaborate similar projects in other countries, namely Colombia, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Timor Leste, (West) Papua, Burundi, Tunisia, Botswana and Morocco. Our *Geneva Courses* offer a unique opportunity

for defenders from the regions to elaborate implementation strategies, in which **all the UN recommendations**, of UPR, special procedures, treaty bodies, are critical.

7. GHR STUDY PROJECT ON IMPLEMENTATION

In 2016, GHR General Assembly adopted a study project on the contribution of UN institutions, mechanisms and procedures to the strengthening of the domestic human rights protection mechanisms. GHR sent a questionnaire to its partners to assess the impact in their country of UN human rights programme, and the interaction between Government and civil society. These two questions have been integrated in all GHR Courses, both in Geneva and in the regions. GHR teaches implementation strategies of all UN recommendations.

- **Course at the Lucerne Academy (Lucerne, 4 July 2017)**

As in previous years, GHR participated in the *Lucerne Academy for Human Rights Implementation*. In his Seminar, Adrien-Claude Zoller reviewed the existing UN mechanisms and procedures and the decisions and recommendations addressed to the States. He explained the different stages for the elaboration and realization of sectorial public policies and national plans.

8. GHR PAPUA HUMAN RIGHTS PROJECT

GHR has trained many human rights defenders from Papua. It holds training courses within Papua on how to document human rights abuses, and to make use of UN human rights mechanisms and procedures. In 2017, seven defenders from Papua participated in the *Geneva Courses*, most of them belonging to the new generation of defenders in this territory. Our trainees prepare reports on cases of violations, and we advise them and their organisations on the best way to submit their communications to UN bodies.



Why a project for Papua ?

In the reports of our trainees, we have been shocked by the massive human rights violations occurring in Papua after its integration into Indonesia in 1949. Since 2002, together with dozens of human rights organisations and church institutions from Europe and Australia, GHR participates in the *International Coalition for Papua (ICP)*, which issues human rights reports and advocates for peaceful improvement of the situation. In 2016, in view of the rapidly deteriorating situation there, GHR has launched a **special project on Papua** to promote a stronger campaign in the UN bodies.

GHR Appeal to the CERD (14 July 2016)

On 14 July 2016, GHR submitted an urgent appeal to the *Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD)* to consider under its Early Warning measure the deteriorating situation in Papua. GHR's 18-page report contained a list of the main human rights violations committed in Papua, and Appendixes with a brief history of Papua, a demographic analysis of the population of Papua and a list of hundreds of Papuans recently arrested and detained.

The main aim of GHR is to prevent the extinction of the Papuan population. In recent years, mining activities and military operations have increased. The total population of the territory continues to grow, largely due to the transmigration flow from other Indonesian islands. And the Papuan population has decreased sharply. Recently, Papuan youth have

engaged in (peaceful) demonstrations for justice and independence. As a result, repression has increased.

Following the examination of GHR appeal, the CERD decided during its 90th session (August 2016) to address an 'Early Warning' to Indonesia regarding the situation the 'Papuan indigenous people in West Papua'. GHR translated the document into Bahasa and GHR Alumnis in Papua broadly distributed it in the territory.

GHR Working group on Papua

In 2017, a Working group of GHR members was constituted to run this project. It is composed of Edward Flynn, Thomas Harris, Tiffany Pagès, Maréva Roduit and Nicolas Zoller, who coordinates the project. The direct partners of GHR Working group are the former trainees in the *Geneva Courses*.

The main activities realized by GHR in 2017 under this project presented hereunder.

International Consultation on Papua **(Geneva, 22 February 2017)**

GHR actively supported the *ICP Secretariat* and the *World Council of Churches (WCC)* in the preparation of the **International Consultation on Papua** (Geneva, 22 February).

More than 50 organisations, members of the coalition and human rights organisations and partners from Indonesia and Papua, were represented at the Consultation, which took place in the Ecumenical Centre. The conference was moderated by Jochen Motte, (Deputy Secretary General, United Evangelical Mission) and Adrien-Claude Zoller (GHR).

The key-note address was given by ICP Coordinator Norman Voß on *the human rights situation in Papua*. The other speakers were:

- Mr Laitia Tamata (*Pacific Islands Association of NGOs, PIANGO, Fiji*) and François Pihate (*Pacific Conference of Churches, PCC*) on '*The Pacific Coalition for West Papua and the Pacific Movement*';
- Adrien-Claude Zoller on '*West Papua in UN Mechanisms*'; and Thomas Harris (GHR) on the *Early Warning Measures of the CERD*;
- Cahyo Pamungkas (*Indonesian Institute of Sciences, LIPI, Jakarta*), and Ms. Veronica Koman (*Papua Itu Kita*) on '*Jakarta and West Papua 2016 and 2017*';
- Yones Douw (*Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Desk of the Papuan Tabernacle Church*), Yuliana Langowoyu (*Office for Justice and Peace Sekretariat, Fransiscans, SKP*), Theo Heseqem (*Advocacy Network on Law Enforcement and Human Rights (JAPH-HAM)*) and Gustaf Kawer (Human Rights Lawyer, West Papua) on '*Protecting People – Challenges of Civil Society Work in West Papua*'.

The day concluded with a **public round-table** chaired by Peter Prove (*Director Churches Commission on International Affairs, WCC*). Four partners intervened:

- Ms. Fransina Yoteni (*Evangelical Christian Church of Papua, Jayapura, West Papua*),
- Victor Yeimo (*West Papua National Committee, Jayapura, West Papua*),
- Veronica Koman (*Papua Itu Kita, Jakarta*),
- and Anselmus Amo (*Office for Justice and Peace, Merauke, West Papua*).

Geneva-based diplomats and NGOs attended the round-table, which also received comments from the Delegation of Indonesia.

International Coalition on Papua (ICP)

- GHR also contributed to the **ICP Assembly**, which took place on 23 February 2017. The first session of the Assembly was devoted to a hearing with all Indonesian and Papuan partners present in Geneva.
- Edward Flynn and Adrien-Claude Zoller represented GHR at the two **ICP Board** meetings taking place on that occasion in Geneva (21 and 23 February). A third Board meeting took place later in the year in Utrecht (27 – 28 November), with the participation of GHR project Coordinator and President.
- In 2017, Edward Flynn again edited the English version of the ICP coalition's report entitled '*Human Rights in West Papua 2017*' (210 pages).

Training Papuan partners and defenders

In the International Coalition on Papua, GHR is logically the organisation training partners on the best ways to use international procedures. GHR also trains on strategies.

- 7 Papuan and 2 Indonesian trainees participated in GHR Geneva Courses in March and September 2017;
- Visit and briefing to Papuan partners. From 22 May to 6 June, the Coordinator of GHR project, Nicolas Zoller, visited partners in West Papua, in particular the former Papuan trainees. This visit was an opportunity to brief partners on the developments in the UN system and to gather first-hand information on the domestic networks and their initiatives in a context of a worsening situation.
- Drafting policy papers. GHR prepared policy papers for Papuan partners and ICP members:
 - ✓ Recommendations on the use of international procedures (March 2017);
 - ✓ 'Lobbying for West Papua in the United Nations in 2017. GHR Recommendations' (March 2017).
 - ✓ 'Advice to the Permanent Mission of the Solomon Islands on the proposed resolution on West Papua' (April 2017).

Using international procedures and mechanisms

ICP Member organisations, including GHR, submitted several communications to the UN procedures. Thanks to their accuracy and quality, UN thematic special procedures increasingly reacted. The impact of the communications is even stronger when they are jointly submitted by several NGOs, and coordinated by the ICP Secretariat.

- GHR provided briefing and orientation to Indonesian and Papuan defenders attending UPR (pre-session in April; review in May; and adoption of the report in September); Invited by GHR to Geneva, Filep Karma, a former political prisoner, intervened during the NGOs meeting on the UPR Indonesia (3 May). A Papuan trainee in the *Geneva Course* read out the joint statement of NGOs before the HR-Council on the occasion of the adoption of the UPR report of Indonesia (21 September).
- Joint oral statements during the sessions of the HR-Council (March, June, and September).
- ICP member organisations actively prepared the visit to Indonesia of the UN Special Rapporteur on the right to health (22 March to 3 April 2017); they met OHCHR staff before the visit and made an oral statement at the 34th session of the HR-Council (March); GHR partners met the Special Rapporteur, both in Jakarta and in Jayapura.

Appeal to the CERD

Besides the reactions of several UN Special Rapporteurs, the 2016 Early Warning of CERD to the Government of Indonesia constituted a major achievement in the campaign to sensitize the UN on the real situation in Papua. GHR followed this up in 2017, with the aim to facilitate an initiative of the UN High Commissioner regarding this situation.

- On 30 November 2016, GHR addressed a second communication to the CERD, highlighting the threats to the very survival of the Papuan people. An additional document was submitted in February 2017 containing detailed information on the mass arbitrary arrests that occurred in Papua in January. This led to a new call from the CERD to the Government of Indonesia.
- Invited by GHR, two Papuan defenders, Ms. Frederika Korain and Wensislaus Fatubun, with the Chairperson and members of the CERD (26 November to 5 December). On 29 November, during a broad 'Thematic Discussion' convened by CERD on *Racial Discrimination in Today's World: Racial profiling, ethnic cleansing and current global issues and challenges*, oral communications were made by Ines Mathieu (for GHR) and Wensislaus Fatubun (for the Papuan network).
- To further prepare the necessary documentation for future submissions to the CERD, GHR engaged a cooperation with the University of Bern, who has a unique study

project on West-Papua; a working meeting was held in Geneva on 6 April with Cyprianus Dale of the University of Bern;

- GHR held several meetings at the OHCHR to discuss the planned visit of the High Commissioner to Indonesia.

Supporting Pacific States

Another initiative of GHR concerns the Pacific States. For a few years now, GHR aims at increasing the interest of Pacific States in participating in the main UN human rights meetings, and in raising their own concerns and priorities, including their support to the Papuan people. As a training organisation, GHR has trained diplomats from small islands and least developed countries (LDCs). As there is no institutional memory in the UN, information on past studies and decisions is critical for them. Moreover, with the creation of the HR-Council, the complexity of the rules of procedures increased. GHR supported the creation by the UN General Assembly of a fund for training diplomats from these Nations.

In 2013, in his address to the UN General Assembly, Vanuatu's Prime Minister requested a Special UN Representative to be appointed to investigate the human rights situation in Papua. Since then, States from the Pacific regularly raised the question of West Papua in HR-Council and General Assembly sessions. Those who spoke are the following States: Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, Nauru, Marshall Islands and Palau. Their pro-West Papua positions enjoy a broad support among the population of the Pacific States. With this experience, GHR aims at facilitating the opening in Geneva of Permanent Missions of the Pacific States. In 2017, GHR:

- held regular meetings with the Mission of the Solomon Islands and trained one its staff members in the *Geneva Course*;
- advised the Delegations of Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands for the High-Level side-event of Pacific States during the 34th session of the HR-Council (3 March);
- provided strategic advice and orientation to the Mission of the Solomon Islands, on, and the use of UN procedures for Indonesia and Papua; on the petition of the Papuan people and its submission to the UN; and on the issue of self-determination.

Training and Supporting a Papuan lobbyist in Geneva

Since June 2017, GHR also facilitated the work in Geneva of a Papuan lobbyist by arranging a long-term visa, hosting him in the Organisation (with our weekly study sessions) and providing him with advice and orientation.

9. GHR PROJECT ON ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCE

GHR project on enforced disappearance

For GHR, the fight against enforced disappearances has always been a priority. Several GHR members were actively involved in the creation in 1980 of the *Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances* (WGEID) and in the drafting of the Declaration on the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearances (adopted by the General Assembly in 1992). GHR also participated in the negotiations on the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (ICED), adopted by the UN General Assembly on 20 December 2006. The Convention entered into force on 23 December 2010. Since then, GHR monitored all the sessions of the Committee on Enforced Disappearances (CED) and realized in 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2016 four Experts Meetings with both the CED and the WGEID.

In 2016, our project focused on the preparation of the first Conference of the States Parties to the ICED (Geneva, 19 December 2016). GHR coordinated NGOs activities before and during this Conference, which decided that, after its first period of activities, the CED will continue to monitor the Convention. Subsequently, GHR agreed to prepare a next Expert Seminar with the CED and the WGEID.

On 17 February 2017, during the High-level Plenary Meeting of the UN General Assembly marking the 10th Anniversary of the Convention, High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mr. Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein, launched in his address an appeal to double the number of ratifications of the Convention within the coming five 5 years.

International Workshop on Enforced Disappearances
(GCSP, Maison de la Paix, 15 March 2017)

Increasing rapidly the number of ratification to a Convention is ambitious. It can be reached only through a multi-actors strategy with States and coalitions of relatives and human rights organisations. Logically, this became the aim of our 2017 Expert Seminar, entitled '*Platform for reflection on ways to strengthen the prevention of and protection from the crime of enforced disappearance*' and which we convened jointly by the *Geneva Center for Security Policy* (GCSP). Tobias Vestner (GCSP) chaired the Seminar, co-sponsored by the Missions of Argentina and France. Most members of the Committee on Enforced Disappearance attended, as well as experts from OHCHR, the Human Rights Committee and several international NGOs.

The Expert Seminar was opened by the Representatives of France and Argentina, followed by a key-note address given by Santiago Corcuera Cabezut, Chair of the CED and former Chairperson of the WGEID (Mexico).

Mr. Ibrahim Salama (Chief OHCHR Treaty Bodies), and Prof. Olivier de Frouville (former Chairman of the WGEID, Université Paris-2 Panthéon), introduced the second session on *The CED and UN treaty bodies system*.

Three speakers intervened during the last session: Prof. Emmanuel Decaux (first President of the CED), on '*Assessment of the first five years of the CED and way forward*', Peter Splinter (former Amnesty Representative in Geneva on '*Priority issues for the coming years*'), and Adrien-Claude Zoller on '*Strategies for NGOs*'.

Intergovernmental side-event on Enforced Disappearances
(Palais des Nations, 14 September 2017)

GHR was associated with another initiative at the UN in 2017: the Inter-Governmental side-event to promote the universal ratification of the Convention. Taking place during the 36th session of the HR-Council, the event was opened by the address of the Ambassadors from France, Japan, Argentina and Morocco.

The other speakers were: Paolo David (OHCHR), Ms. Suela Janina (new President of the CED), Ms. Houria Es-Slami (President of the WGEID), Luciano Hazan (member of the WGEID) and Prof. Emmanuel Decaux (member of CED).

More than 100 persons attended, including Representatives from more than 50 Permanent Missions. Adrien-Claude Zoller chaired the meeting.

Programme No. 3

'Training Specific Stakeholders (TSS)

In 2017, GHR gave lectures and briefings during conferences and for specific partners.

Course for Burmese trainees
(GCSP, Geneva, 10 April 2017)

From 25 March to 14 April 2017, the *Geneva Center for Security Policy* (GCSP) and the *Centre for Security, Development and the Rule of Law* (DCAF) conducted a Course for participants from Myanmar on *International Relations and Human Security*. Adrien-Claude Zoller presented two courses on Monday 10 April, respectively on *Peacebuilding and social rights*, and on *Cultural rights (languages)*. The 29 were from the Government, the Army, political parties, non States actors and civil society.

Course to National Institutions
(Geneva, Palais Wilson, 3 May 2017)

As in previous years, GHR contributed to the annual Course on the international human rights system, for staff members of national institutions, convened by the *Ebert Foundation*, OHCHR and the Secretariat of the national institutions (*GAHNRI*) (Geneva, 2-6 May). Theme of GHR Course was the *overview of the three pillars of the UN* (peace, development, human rights), and the *mechanisms of the HR-Council*.

The 17 trainees came from Egypt, South Africa, Tanzania, India, Indonesia, Mongolia, Nepal, Philippines, Costa Rica, Argentina, Georgia, Ukraine and United Kingdom.

Course to UN Indigenous Fellows
(OHCHR, Geneva, 27 June 2017)

Every year, OHCHR receives in Geneva a group of indigenous representatives from all the regions to offer them a training and the opportunity to participate in the session of the EMRIP. GHR contributed again to the *2017 OHCHR Indigenous Fellowship (19 June – 14 July)*. On 27 June, Adrien-Claude Zoller gave GHR Course on the *UN and indigenous peoples*. 33 indigenous representatives attended. They came from Burundi, Chad, Congo, Kenya, Morocco, South-Africa, India, Indonesia, Pakistan, Tuvalu, Australia, Canada, USA, Russian Federation (10), Ukraine, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Guatemala (2), Ecuador, Mexico, Nicaragua, Venezuela.

GHR team preparing the Expert Seminar on Indigenous Peoples further met with several indigenous trainees to help them drafting their oral communication at the EMRIP.

Expert Meeting on the strengthening of UN treaty bodies
(Geneva, 23 & 24 May 2017)

GHR participated in the Expert meeting organized by the International Service for Human Rights (ISHR). Penny Parker presented a communication on the previous strengthening processes of the treaty monitoring bodies.

Course to students from the University of Padova
(Geneva, 19 September 2017)

Edward Flynn and Adrien-Claude Zoller gave a Course to a group of students from the University of Padova on the UN human rights programme and on the strategies of advocacy (19 September).

Webinar for the World Council of Churches
(October – November 2017)

In 2016, following a request of several members of the Churches' Commission on International Affairs of the WCC, a first Webinar of the WCC was animated by GHR on *UN human rights mechanisms and procedures*. In 2017, Adrien-Claude Zoller realized four thematic Webinars, prepared and animated jointly with two staff members from the WCC, Ms. Jennifer Philpot-Nissen and Ms. Clementine Gaspar. Themes were:

- **racial justice** (23 October),
- **religious freedom** (3 November),
- **women's rights** (7 November),
- **children's rights** (10 November).

The summary of the Courses were sent in advance by E-mail to the participants. A video recording of the Webinar has been made and sent to the participants, so that each of them could use it in briefings to be organized locally.

Course on Minority Protection
(OHCHR, Geneva, 16 November 2017)

GHR annual Course to the minority fellows of OHCHR took place on 16 November 2017. Adrien-Claude Zoller presented a Course on the **minorities in the international system** since the foundation of the League of Nations. He also explained the main UN mechanisms and procedures to be used to better protect minorities.

Other briefings for stakeholders in 2017

- Briefing to 13 students of the School of Journalism from Neuchatel Adrien-Claude Zoller on the *decision-making process in the UN (21 March)*. GHR invited three defenders from the regions to also present their *lobby experience in the UN*: Ana Maria Rodriguez (*Colombian Commission of Jurists*), Iniyán Ilango (*Forum Asia*) and Wensislaus Fatubun (*Papuan lobbyist*).

- Tiffany Pagès, Maréva Roduit and Adrien-Claude Zoller animated the Course at the University of Geneva on the UN and human rights for 12 students of the University of California was animated by (11 April).
- On the *International Day for the Victims of Torture* (26 June), Adrien-Claude Zoller presented a Course on the UN action in the field of torture in a conference of NGOs held in the Geneva Welcoming Centre (CAGI).

OUR DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY STUDIES

The Department on *Human Rights Policy Studies* (HPS) supports GHR training activities. It **monitors** international human rights negotiations, **covers** all meetings of UN human rights bodies, **analyzes** the main trends, and **informs** our trainers and partners in the field.

1. GHR EXPERT SEMINARS IN GENEVA (GSS)

Defenders and NGOs in the regions work under difficult conditions. Our 1997 consultation process with partners in the regions highlighted their demand for immediate implementation of the international standards, and their **specific concerns** for humanitarian law; macroeconomic issues (economic system as source of violations); the struggle against impunity; and the protection of defenders. Since then, other main concerns emerged in our working relations with partners: indigenous peoples' rights and violence against women. All these issues are raised in all GHR Courses and Seminars.

To sensitize actors at the HR-Council on such issues, GHR convened since 2009 **Expert Seminars in Geneva** on Caste Discrimination (2009), International Humanitarian Law (September 2010, June 2011), Trends on the HR-Council (March 2011), Transitional Justice (September 2011), Minorities (November 2011), Enforced Disappearances (Nov. 2012, Nov. 2013, September 2014), Religious Freedom (December 2012, June 2015), Business and Human Rights (May and December 2013, December 2014, June 2015), the Anniversary of the World Conference (June 2013), International Criminal Law (May 2014), Indigenous Peoples' Rights (March 2014, July 2016), and Religions, Conflicts and Minorities (Padova, September 2015). Logically, HPS is entrusted with the preparation of *GHR* brainstorming sessions and Expert Seminars.

***In 2017, GHR Expert Seminars focused on
Enforced disappearances and indigenous peoples***

International Workshop on Enforced Disappearances
(GCSP, Maison de la Paix, 15 March 2017)

This expert meeting was convened jointly by the *Geneva Center for Security Policy* (GCSP) and Geneva for Human Rights. The Permanent Missions of Argentina and France co-sponsored the event focusing on the universal ratification of the International Convention. Most of the members of the Committee on Enforced Disappearance attended, as well as experts from OHCHR, the Human Rights Committee and several international NGOs⁵.

***GHR Expert Seminar on the implementation of the UN Declaration
on Indigenous Peoples*** *(Geneva, Palais des Nations, 14 July 2017)*

Background

To prepare the '*World Conference on Indigenous Peoples*', GHR held In March 2014 an Expert Seminar to review UN achievements and to strengthen UN protection mechanisms and procedures for indigenous peoples. The World Conference took place in New York in September 2014. The Conference invited the HR-Council to review existing mandates to improve the *Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (EMRIP).

⁵ See also here above under Implementation Programme.

In April 2016, OHCHR convened an Expert Workshop on the follow-up to the World Conference. The proposals to strengthen the EMRIP were reviewed in GHR Expert Seminar of 11 July 2016. The mandate of the EMRIP was substantially broadened by the September 2016 resolution of the HR-Council.

Both the Outcome Document of the 2014 World Conference and the HR-Council 2016 resolution focused on the implementation of the UN *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (adopted by the General Assembly in September 2007).

Theme of GHR third Expert Seminar was therefore 'Indigenous Peoples: Implementing the UN Declaration'. Co-sponsored by the Delegations of Guatemala and Mexico, and chaired by Kenneth Deer (Secretary of the *Mohawk Nation at Kahnawake*, Canada), it took place in Palais des Nations on 14 July 2017.

In the first session on 'Implementation -examples of challenges in the field', the following indigenous representatives exposed their main problems:

- Feliciana Herrera (*Maya Ixil, Alcadia Indigena de Neba*, Guatemala),
- Jepkemoi Christine Kandie (*Endorois, Endorois Welfare Council*, Kenya),
- Dorian Oldemar Flores Andy (*Kichwa, Comuna San Jacinto Depindo*, Ecuador).
- Maina Talia (*Vaitupu, Tuvalu Climate Action Network*, Tuvalu).

Theme of the second session was the 'UN mechanisms - main challenges'. Speakers were:

- Chris Foley (*Indian Law Resource Centre*, Montana, USA),
- Tuomas Aslak Juuso (*Sami Parliament*, Finland),
- Chief Wilton Littlechild (*Cree*, Canada, former Chairman of the EMRIP).

67 persons attended, including delegates from a dozen of States. The debates highlighted that implementing the UN Declaration did not depend only on the most efficient ways to use the current UN mechanisms and procedures, in particular the broadened mandate of EMRIP, but also on the analysis of existing gaps in the protection of indigenous peoples in the field.

2. INTERNSHIP & FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME (IFP)

In 2017, HPS monitored all the ordinary and special sessions of the HR-Council and its mechanisms, treaty bodies and the briefings organized by OHCHR. The Department drafted analytical summaries of the UN sessions and compilations for GHR Courses. HPS also issued documentation kits for the *Geneva Courses*.

HPS is a multidisciplinary and cross-regional team. Unpaid internships and fellowships are from 3 to 6 months. GHR selects students and graduates in international relations, international law, human rights, political science and economics, who are motivated in the promotion and protection of human rights and social justice.

For GHR, an internship is also a **training**. The interns participate in the weekly study meetings and in the *Geneva Courses*. In addition, long-term interns are assigned specific study projects corresponding, where possible, to the theme of their forthcoming *thesis*, and coinciding with *GHR* thematic priorities. GHR also ensures the necessary follow-up to these long-term internships, by facilitating their placement in specialized institutes for their PhD and their search for jobs. In 2017, *HPS* welcomed the following 21 interns and fellows:

a) Interns from the regions:

Ji Sun Han (South Korea), Fujun Gao (China), Esther Maria Cisneros (Mexico-USA), Aylin Sahin (Turkey-France), Katarzyna Ptak (Poland).

b) Interns from Northern countries:

Nina Bries (Spain), Cédric Chatelanat (Switzerland), Kaila Cook (Canada-USA), Francesca Dal Poggetto (Italy), Fionnuala Doyle Wade (Ireland), Dawnn Marie Forza (USA), Kaleigh Homstad (USA), Luisa Kern (Germany), Sarah Lair (Switzerland), Ines Mathieu (Germany), Tiffany Pagès (Switzerland), Camille Perret (France), Jordan Petrich (USA), Anna Silvia Petrignano (Italy), Maréva Roduit (Switzerland), Eremence Ziehli (Switzerland).

GENEVA FOR HUMAN RIGHTS (GHR)

Constituted as International Association under Swiss law, GHR obtained tax exemption status from the State of Geneva and Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (*ECOSOC*).

1. WHAT WE ACHIEVED SO FAR

GHR Courses and Seminars in Geneva

In Geneva, GHR conducted many Courses and Seminars for defenders from the regions:

- **fourty** (2-4 weeks) **Geneva Courses** during UN main human rights sessions (Commission on Human Rights, Sub-Commission, ECOSOC, the 2009 Review Conference on Racism, and all the ordinary sessions of the HR-Council);
- **twenty-three Experts Seminars** on Caste Discrimination; the HR-Council; International Humanitarian Law (2); Transitional Justice; Minorities (2); Enforced Disappearances (4); Religious Freedom (3); Business and Human Rights (4); the World Conference on Human Rights; Indigenous Peoples (3); International Criminal Law; and Death Penalty.
- **Twenty-one Seminars and briefings** during the **UPR Working group**;
- **several specific ‘On-Demand’ Courses:**
 - ✓ several Courses for NGOs coalitions from the regions:
 - from **Kazakhstan** (at the request of *Soros*),
 - **Dalits coalitions** (request of *CCFD* and *Cordaid*),
 - from **Mozambique** (request of *UNDP* and the Swiss *SDC*),
 - for **Uyghurs** Representatives,
 - for **Burmese lawyers** (request of the *International Bar Association*).
 - ✓ nine Courses for diplomats (with the *Graduate Institute* and the *GCSP* Geneva);
 - ✓ nine Courses for humanitarian actors (eight for the *ICRC*);
- GHR **also lectured** for **partner organizations**, including *OHCHR*, the *World Council of Churches*, *UNITAR*, the *Geneva Centre for Security Policy* (GCSP), Universities of Galway, Maynooth, Lyon, Paris-2, Lund, Nijmegen and Padova, the *German NGO Forum* and the *F. Ebert Foundation* (Berlin), *Forum Asia* (Bangkok), the *German Network on Papua*, the JPIC Commissions of the *Spiritans*, the *Dominican Order*, the *International Bar Association*, *Cordaid* (The Hague), and *Progressio* (London).

GHR Courses and Seminars in the field

In the regions, GHR already conducted:

- **ten On-Demand Regional Courses** in Africa, Latin America and Asia;
- **fifty-six In-Country Courses and Seminars** in Latin America (15), in Africa (4), in the Russian Federation (8), and in Asia (29);
- and, at the request of the *Swiss and Mexican Governments*, from 2004 to 2008, a comprehensive **training and mediation program** in Mexico to support the process of the national implementation Programme; a similar project was launched in Botswana.

2. GHR GENERAL ASSEMBLY

On 31 December 2016, the Association was composed of 45 individual **members** and 4 observers⁶. Twenty-one are trainers or teachers. Many participate *pro bono* in *GHR* training activities.

GHR General Assembly holds its ordinary session once a year. The most recent Assemblies took place on 12 January 2006, 29 March 2007, 13 March 2008, 6 March 2009, 19 March 2010, 19 September 2010, 10 March 2011, 8 March 2012, 7 March 2013, 6 March 2014, 5 March 2015, 15 March 2016 and 9 March 2017.

⁶ Nationalities of the members: Congo (1), Senegal (1), India (2), Armenia (1), Russian Federation (2); Colombia (2), Haiti (1), Guyana (1), Canada (1), United States of America (1), Malta (1), Germany (3), Belgium (1), Finland (1), Ireland (3), Italy (1), France (1), Netherlands (2), United Kingdom (1), Switzerland (18). Nationality of the observers: Timor Leste (1), Russian Federation (1), Bolivia (1), Switzerland (1).

Ms. Penny Parker chaired **GHR 15th General Assembly** of 9 March 2017. The Assembly examined and approved GHR Narrative Report 2015, the Action Plan for 2016, the Financial Report 2015 audited by the auditing firm *Comtesas + Gerficom*, and the budget for 2016 and 2017. The mandate of the Executive Council members was extended.

3. GHR EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Executive Council

The Executive Council monitors the implementation of GHR Action Plan and decides on the main activities of the Organisation. In 2017, it was composed of the following members:

- **Suhas Chakma** (India)
- **Alain Dick** (France, member Bureau)
- **Jean-Pierre Huber** (Switzerland, Treasurer)
- **Guillermo Kerber Mas** (Uruguay)
- **Ms. Penny Parker** (United States of America)
- Prof. **Bertrand Ramcharan** (Guyana)
- **Eric Revillet** (Switzerland, member Bureau)
- **Adrien-Claude Zoller** (Switzerland, President).

Bureau of the Executive Council

The Bureau of the Executive Council is composed of the following four members: Alain Dick, Eric Revillet, Jean-Pierre Huber and Adrien-Claude Zoller. It deals with all the administrative and financial matters. Its working language is French. In 2017, the Bureau met regularly to monitor the evolution of the administration after the moving of GHR Secretariat in December 2015 to the Ecumenical Centre in Geneva.

4. GHR SECRETARIAT

GHR Secretariat has two Departments: the Global Training Department (GTP), and the Department of Human Rights Policy Studies (HPS). Since 2010, the bookkeeping is entrusted to an external accountant, Mr. Cesar Mercado.

The employment of paid employees came to an end in June 2015. Since then, GHR Secretariat continued to work with volunteers only. Nicolas Zoller announced his decision to continue working '*pro bono*' for GHR Secretariat (planning, organization, informatics). To further reduce the expenses of the administration, on 17 December 2015, GHR Secretariat moved to the Ecumenical Centre in Geneva.

Senior Management Team

Since 2008, *GHR* Secretariat is directed under the authority of the Bureau by the Senior Management Team (SMT), which meets once a week. The SMT is composed of the Head of the Departments, the trainers and a few long-term interns. During the first Semester 2017, Maréva Roduit, Tiffany Pagès, and Luisa Kern were appointed in the SMT.

'Geneva for Human Rights – Global Training'

Ecumenical Centre, 150, Route de Ferney,
Case/P.O. Box 2100, 1211 Geneva 2, Switzerland
E-mails: info@gdh-ghr.org; & acz.hr@bluewin.ch;
tel. (41-22) 320.27.27 & (41-79) 345.82.00