

Stichting Human Rights Watch Nederland

Annual Report 2017/2018

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1. WHO WE ARE

1.1 Human Rights Watch Inc.

Human Rights Watch Inc. is a non-profit, nongovernmental human rights organization first established in 1978 and headquartered in New York that closely coordinates with a network of 12 independent sister charities that share its name (hereinafter “Human Rights Watch”), including Stichting (foundation) Human Rights Watch Nederland.

Human Rights Watch is one of the world’s leading independent organisations dedicated to protecting the human rights of people around the world

The organization is made up of roughly 460 staff members representing 78 nationalities in 48 countries. Its staff consists of human rights professionals including country experts, lawyers, journalists, and academics of diverse backgrounds and nationalities.

Human Rights Watch is known for its accurate fact-finding, impartial reporting, and targeted advocacy, often in partnership with local human rights groups. Each year, Human Rights Watch publishes more than 60 reports and 1,700 press releases on human rights conditions in some 90 countries, generating extensive coverage in local and international media.

With the leverage this brings, Human Rights Watch meets with governments, the United Nations, regional groups like the African Union and European Union, financial institutions, and corporations to press for changes in policy and practice that promote human rights and justice around the world.

1.2 Stichting Human Rights Watch Nederland

Stichting Human Rights Watch Nederland is part of the international Human Rights Watch organization. The Foundation participates in these activities whenever effective strategy calls for its involvement. For additional information about Human Rights Watch research on The Netherlands, please go to The Netherlands country research page at <https://www.hrw.org/europe/central-asia/netherlands>.

Stichting Human Rights Watch Nederland (the “Foundation”) is a foundation incorporated under the laws of the Netherlands, having its registered office in Amsterdam. The Foundation is registered at the Commercial register of Chamber of Commerce under file number: 41216606.

ANBI Status

The Foundation has an ANBI (Algemeen nut beogende instellingen) status.
In English known as a Public Benefit Organisation (PBO).

RSIN number: 816121977

In November 1996, Stichting Human Rights Watch Nederland was founded (hereinafter “HRW Netherlands”). The foundation is part of the international Human Rights Watch organization. The foundation’s primary purpose is to raise money in The Netherlands to support the worldwide operations of Human Rights Watch.

In January 2009, the Netherlands Committee of Human Rights Watch was founded, a group of volunteers who support the office through fundraising, outreach, and advocacy initiatives.

In September 2010, Human Rights Watch opened its Netherlands office in Amsterdam in order to support the work of Human Rights Watch worldwide, as well as to intensify its advocacy on key global human rights issues. The foundation is incorporated under the laws of the Netherlands. The main purpose of the entity is fundraising.

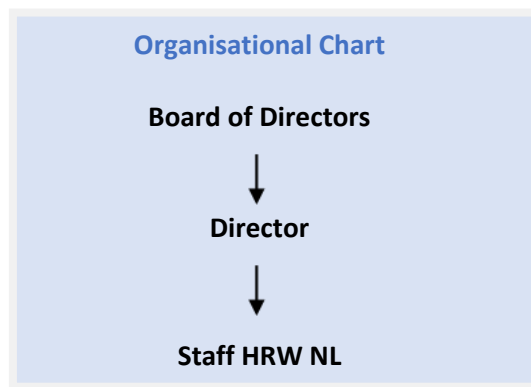
In 2017/2018, the staff in the Netherlands office consists of a senior researcher for our Asia division, a senior press officer, a senior operations administrator and three development staff working on fundraising, outreach, and advocacy in the Netherlands.

Since its founding, HRW Netherlands has strengthened relations with those in the Netherlands financially supporting the organization, the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs and members of Dutch parliament, among others.

1.3 Governance & Organisational Structure

Human Rights Watch has a rigorous self-governance system in place that includes the activities of our Board of Directors, Executive Management Team (EMT), and staff at large. Human Rights Watch's EMT (consisting of Executive Director Kenneth Roth and directors of Program, External Relations, Advocacy, Development and Global Initiatives, and Operations) is responsible for managing the day-to-day governance of the organization and making decisions related to the size and allocation of the annual budget, among other responsibilities. Our executive director is accountable to and evaluated by the Board.

The organisational structure of HRW Netherlands in 2017/2018.



Board of Directors

Mr. Chuck Lustig

Member since 1 November 2016

Chair

Deputy Executive Director for Operations,
Human Rights Watch

Mr. Justin A.J.W. Nieuwenhuys

Member since 27 November 1996

Secretary

Director, Fair Capital Partners

Mr. Frank L. Leijdesdorff

Member since 1 August 2013 (Resigned per 1 July 2018)

Member

Partner and Lawyer, Loyens & Loeff

Mrs. Michele A. Alexander

Member since 15 June 2010

Member

Deputy Executive Director for Development &
Global Initiatives, Human Rights Watch

Ms. Aissata Bangoura

Member since 1 October 2013

Treasurer

Associate Director European Accounting,
Human Rights Watch

Director*

Mrs. Tammy Parrish

Associate Director for Development &
Global Initiatives

**The position of Senior Director was eliminated
this fiscal year.*

Fixed staff

Senior Researcher

Asia Division

Senior Europe Press Officer

Communications

Senior Officer

Development & Global Initiatives

Senior Associate

Development & Global Initiatives

Senior Operations Administrator

Operations

Board of Directors

The Board of Directors of Human Rights Watch Inc. is the international board overseeing the financials of the entire organization. Human Rights Watch Netherlands is also represented by a local Board.

The Board of Directors of the foundation consists of at least three persons.

Directors are appointed for a period of one year. After this period, they can be reappointment.

Directors are appointed, suspended and dismissed by the chair of HRW Netherlands.

Responsibilities of Board Members

- The Board is responsible for managing the organization's assets and ensuring they are used to fulfil its mission.
- The Duty of Care requires Directors to be familiar with HRW's finances and activities, and to participate regularly in its governance.
- The Duty of Loyalty requires Directors to act at all times in the best interest of HRW and to act with particular openness and sensitivity with respect to any matter that might present a conflict of interest.
- The Duty of Obedience requires Directors to ensure that HRW complies both with applicable laws and regulations and with its internal governance documents and policies.

Expectations/Roles and responsibilities of Board Members

- Support the organization to carry out its mission
- Ensure fiscal compliance with organization's stated mission
- Approve the annual budget of the office prepared by the Finance division
- Approve the audited accounts
- Support Human Rights Watch's programmatic efforts by participating in advocacy or outreach projects, as appropriate and necessary
- Contribute expertise through participation on at least one Board, Council or Advisory Committee or in special projects
- Share networks and help raise funds
- Attend and participate in Board meetings, if possible, in person, or by phone or videoconference
- Attend an annual dinner
- Make Human Rights Watch a philanthropic priority

Director

This fiscal year the position of Senior Director at HRW Netherlands was eliminated.

The Associate Director has taken over part of the responsibilities and reports to the Managing Director based in London.

Staff HRW NL

Development and Global Initiatives

Globally, the Development and Global Initiatives Department is led by the Deputy Executive Director (DED) of Development and Global Initiatives and handles the fundraising and outreach activities of Human Rights Watch.

The Amsterdam office represents HRW in the Netherlands. The office consists of a small team including the Associate Director, Senior Officer and Senior Associate. The team is primarily responsible for activities pertaining to fundraising (development), but also engages in press and advocacy work.

The Managing Director of the division based in London also oversees the Amsterdam office.

Communications/Media

The Media Department is primarily responsible for the communications, public relations and media aspects of HRW. Globally, the Department is led by the Deputy Executive Director (DED) of External Relations and consists of Digital, Multimedia, and Online Divisions.

The Senior Press Officer Europe is part of the Communications Division. The Senior Press Officer is based in Amsterdam and not only oversees media work in The Netherlands but also work in several other European countries. He reports simultaneously to the European Media Director.

Program

The Asia Division is a part of the Program Office. The Program Office consists of regional and thematic divisions and oversees research, reporting and various other work. The Asia Division works to advance human rights in Asia and conducts a wide range of work, including investigation, report writing, advocacy and media work.

The Netherlands office bases one senior researcher reporting to a Director of the Asia Division.

Operations

The Operations Department is led by the Deputy Executive Director (DED) of Operations and includes the Finance and Administration, Global Human Resources (HR), and Information Technology (IT) Divisions.

The Senior Operations Administrator based in Amsterdam is responsible for Finance, Human Resources, Facilities Administration and IT related duties of the Amsterdam office. She reports to the Associate Director in charge of the European offices in the Operations department.

Compensation information

The compensation reflects fiscal year 2017/2018 ending 30 June 2018.

All compensation is in accordance with the compensation regulations (Regeling beloning directeurs van goededoelenorganisaties) set by branch organisation Goede Doelen Nederland.

- The members of the board did not receive any kind of financial compensation for their role and activities in the board.
- The gross salary of the acting Director including all benefits and holiday allowance was € 73,150 (0.8 FTE).

The compensation for employees is based upon the following standards:

- Equal secondary employment conditions for all employees.
- Salary increases based upon the result of annual performance evaluations.
- Overtime is not paid out. Employees can take time off in lieu.

1.4 The Netherlands Committee

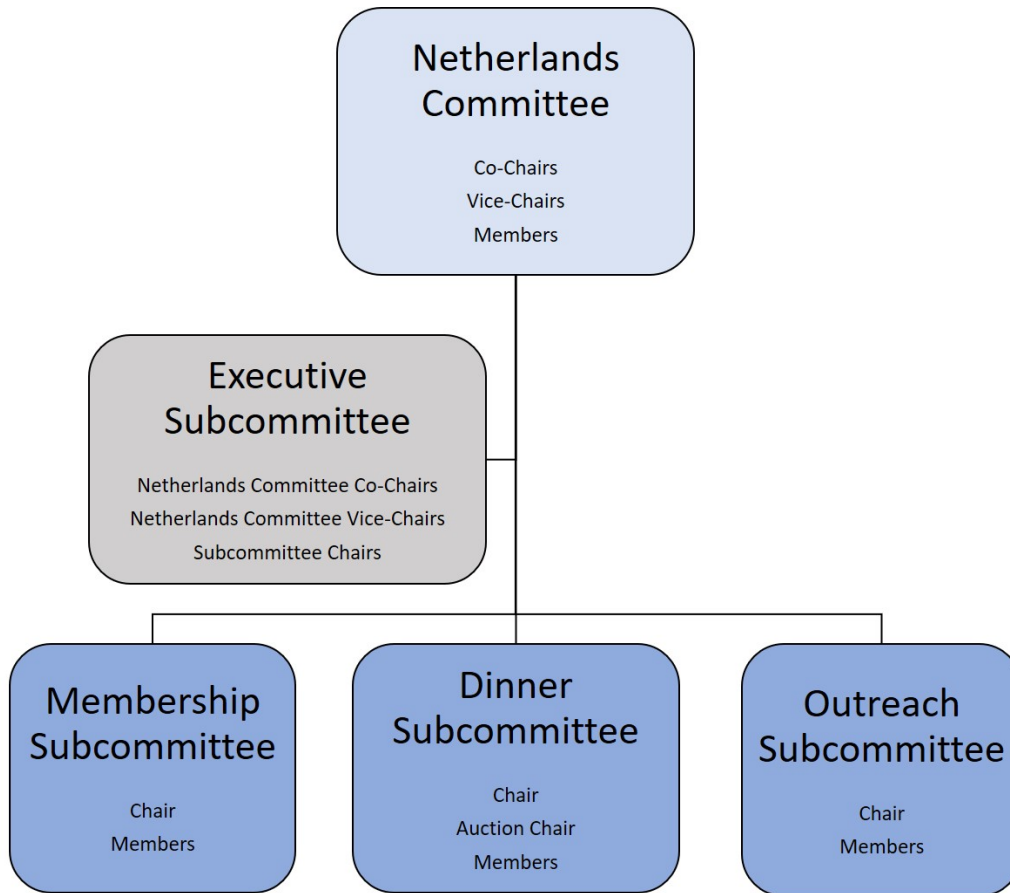
The Human Rights Watch Council is a network of 1,000 philanthropists, investors, and influencers who raise awareness of local and global human rights issues.

Council members are key to the organization's ability to maintain its independence— Human Rights Watch does not accept government funding and relies exclusively on private donations to support its global work. The financial support of the Council provides over 90% of the organization's budget, with roughly 100 donors contributing \$ 100,000 or more per year.

Within the Council, Committees are Human Rights Watch's most established membership group. They are formed through nomination by the Human Rights Watch Board of Directors. Committees are supported by a committee director or Human Rights Watch staff member based in-country who provides support and direction for committee activities. Each committee is responsible for producing a Voices for Justice Annual Dinner or flagship event to raise awareness and funding for the organization. Members participate in local meetings and events in their city and make an annual donation to their capacity. Each committee is chaired by one or more volunteer committee leaders.

In the Netherlands the Council is represented by the Netherlands Committee. The Netherlands Committee was formed in 2010 and had 26 members in June 2018.

Committee chart:



The Netherlands Committee leadership is formed by two Co-Chairs and two Vice Chairs. The full Committee meets bi-annually, and members who want to get more involved can join subcommittees (currently Membership, Dinner and Outreach). Subcommittees can also invite non-Committee members to join. All subcommittees have chairs, and these chairs must be members of the Committee. Committee Co-Chairs and Vice Chairs together with the chairs of the subcommittees form an Executive subcommittee, which meets four times a year to support the HRW NL office and set the agendas for the full Committee meetings.

Netherlands Committee members serve three-year, renewable terms. New members are vetted by the Membership and Executive subcommittees and voted in by the full Committee. Subcommittee membership is revisited annually.

The Human Rights Watch Council is not a legal entity and its members do not have (financial) responsibility for the organization.

The international Human Rights Watch Board of Directors supports the organization to carry out its mission and is responsible for managing the organization's assets and ensuring they are used to fulfil its missions. The Board of Stichting Human Rights Watch Nederland carries out this work for the Netherlands office and is responsible for approving the annual budget and audited accounts.

2. HOW WE WORK

2.1 Mission Statement

Human Rights Watch defends the rights of people worldwide. We scrupulously investigate abuses, expose the facts widely, and pressure those with power to respect rights and secure justice. Human Rights Watch is an independent, international organization that works as part of a vibrant movement to uphold human dignity and advance the cause of human rights for all.

2.2 Core Values

We are committed to our mission of defending human rights worldwide. Our work is guided by international human rights and humanitarian law and respect for the dignity of each human being.

- **Committed to our mission of defending human rights worldwide.** Our work is guided by international human rights standards, humanitarian law, and respect for the dignity of each human being.
- **Independent.** To ensure our independence, we do not accept government funds, directly or indirectly, or support from any private funder that could compromise our objectivity and independence. We do not embrace political causes and are strictly non-partisan. We maintain neutrality in conflict situations, refraining from commenting from who should be in power, but pushing all parties to uphold human rights and obey the rule of law.
- **Factual, accurate, and ethical in our fact-finding.** We are committed to maintaining the highest standards of accuracy and fairness. We seek out multiple perspectives to develop an in-depth, analytic understanding of the situations we report on. We recognize a particular responsibility for the victims and witnesses who have shared their experiences with us.
- **Focused on impact.** We succeed only when our actions lead to positive and sustainable change. We are never complacent, always on the lookout for new opportunities to advance our cause. We also are committed to working on difficult situations, where long-term attention is required for meaningful impact.
- **Dedicated to amplifying the voices of local partners and being part of a vibrant international human rights movement.** We work closely with a broad range of local and international civil society actors to maximize our impact. We speak out against attacks on civil society and defend the political space within which the broader human rights movement operates. We work to complement the role of humanitarian aid groups, who often cannot raise systemic rights abuses without compromising access to those who need their help.

2.3 Objectives

Human Rights Watch is one of the world's leading independent organizations dedicated to defending and protecting human rights. By focusing international attention where human rights are violated, we give voice to the oppressed and hold oppressors accountable for their crimes. Our rigorous, objective investigations and strategic, targeted advocacy build intense pressure for action and raise the cost of human rights abuse. For 30 years, Human Rights Watch has worked tenaciously to lay the legal and moral groundwork for deep-rooted change and has fought to bring greater justice and security to people around the world.

Our ultimate goal is to protect and promote human rights for all people, especially those most vulnerable to exploitation and abuse. We speak for those who may not have the power to speak for themselves. We fight for the vulnerable, and we engage the powerful in their defence.

Human Rights Watch Nederland ("HRW NL") was founded on the initiative of Human Rights Watch Inc., USA, in 1996 with the purpose to directly or indirectly through the organisation Human Rights Watch, Inc. defend human rights, to protect the rights of people around the world both in times of war as in peace, by gathering information on abuses, publish the results and use the information to try to bring an end to abuses and to prevent future violations. Human Rights Watch NL works closely with Human Rights Watch Inc. and the network of affiliated Human Rights Watch charities to further their shared object and purpose.

The general objective of the foundation, as also mentioned in the Affiliation Agreement, is to defend human rights and support the work of Human Rights Watch, as follows:

- a. Protecting human rights around the world in times of war and peace by documenting violations, publishing the findings, and using this information to stop the violations and prevent violations in the future; and
- b. Undertaking any other educational, humanitarian, literary, or scientific activities in this context.

Additional objectives of the foundation are:

- c. Advocacy and Communication initiatives
- d. Fundraising to support the worldwide operations of Human Rights Watch

The foundation's primary purpose is to raise money in The Netherlands to support the worldwide operations and programs of Human Rights Watch.

2.3.1 Determination of projects

How we prioritize and plan

Human Rights Watch considers the severity of the human rights abuses taking place; the number of affected people; and our ability to have a positive impact on the situation. Our staff members, experts on particular regions or thematic issues, develop sets of priority issues after consultation with partner organizations in the country or countries at issue.

To prepare for the unexpected, Human Rights Watch employs top-flight researchers on our emergencies team who can be deployed at a moment's notice. This capacity for emergency response means that Human Rights Watch is often the first or only organization reporting from the ground in conflict situations.

Key Programs

Human Rights Watch is organized both by region (Africa, Americas, Asia, Europe and Central Asia, Middle East and North Africa, and United States) and theme (Arms; Business and Human Rights; Children's Rights; Disabilities; Emergencies; Health and Human Rights; International Justice; Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Rights; Refugee Policy; and Women's Rights).

HRW Netherlands

HRW Netherlands works collaboratively with HRW Inc. to raise funds to support the overall work and objectives of HRW Inc. globally. Throughout the year the foundation monitors the cashflow and funds needed for the continuity and earmarked reserve for the foundation.

- For remaining unrestricted funds available, HRW Netherlands will request a funding proposal from the Foundations team at HRW Inc. The foundation receives grant proposals for underfunded projects with a description of each project. The proposal must be in line with the statutes and overall priorities of the HRW Netherlands.
- Once finalized, the proposal is submitted to the board for discussion and their approval to grant the funds.
- Once approved, the project can be implemented, and the funds transferred to HRW Inc.

In 2017/2018 the following projects were supported by the grant proposals:

- 1) Protecting civilians and preventing atrocities in the Central African Republic, Burundi, Nigeria, South Sudan, and Sudan (supporting Great Lakes & Southern Africa parts of our Africa division)
- 2) Advancing human rights concerns in Central Asia, particularly Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and Kyrgyzstan (supporting Central Asia in our ECA division)

2.4 Our Methodology

Human Rights Watch is a leader in impartial documentation, wide exposure of abuses, and effective advocacy that leads to concrete, on-the-ground change that improves the day-to-day lives of people around the globe. Our methodology to defend human rights which consists of three steps:



1. **We investigate.** HRW Netherlands, and Human Rights Watch are committed to systematically researching and analysing human rights conditions worldwide in order to uncover abuses. Researchers interview leaders, victims and witnesses so that they can form an accurate picture of what happened. They also review media and academic reports, and domestic and international law and policy papers to gain a further understanding of the situation.
2. **We expose.** All researchers in the Human Rights Watch network, including those serving HRW Netherlands, publish their findings in the form of reports and articles. These are then made accessible to the public as well as local authorities in order to raise awareness of the abuses. The publications are available in multiple languages and formats and are often referenced in news articles worldwide.
3. **We make change.** Following the identification and publication of human rights abuses, advocates for HRW Netherlands and Human Rights Watch work closely with local authorities and organisations in order to achieve accountability and put an end to the abuses that they have discovered. The ultimate goal of all advocates in the Human Rights Watch network is to ensure that human rights are upheld worldwide and to promote justice and change.

By investigating human rights violations, exposing them in the media, and advocating for improvements, we seek to make a positive change in the world. In order to achieve this, we must be responsive and nimble and able to leap into action quickly to respond to breaking events and document human rights abuses as they are occurring.

2.5 Fundraising

Policy

Human Rights Watch reserves the right to refuse donations from individuals or institutions if the organization determines that such funds might undermine Human Rights Watch's credibility, independence, or reputation.

Human Rights Watch will not solicit and will refuse donations from governments, government foundations, and government officials, whether directly or indirectly, such as those that are or appear to be made on behalf of an official through an immediate family member or foundation.

We will decline a corporate donation if the company is a focus of current Human Rights Watch work, the company is a direct competitor of a company that is the focus of Human Rights Watch's work. This policy applies to all solicitations from corporations and from individuals who are "major stakeholders," that is, those whose role or affiliation with a corporation makes their identity inseparable from the company.

In cases where it is not clear whether a donation would be in compliance with the policy, the Business and Human Rights Program will conduct due diligence, based upon the ordinary work of Human Rights Watch, to determine whether Human Rights Watch can accept such funds.

Strategy

The director of HRW Netherlands determines the fundraising strategy for the Netherlands in coordination with her supervisor. This is primarily a major gifts strategy, focusing on gifts of € 10.000 and greater. The strategy is based on the type and amount of income from the past year and the relationships with those donors and the new contacts resulting from the Voices for Justice Annual Dinner and cultivation events in the past year.

The Netherlands Committee plays a key role in the fundraising strategy. Members introduce Human Rights Watch researchers and advocates to individuals and businesses in their networks.

Human Rights Watch strives to maintain an 20% fundraising ratio worldwide, meaning that fundraising costs do not exceed 20% of the global operating budget.

As the foundation's primary purpose is fundraising, the ratio for HRW Netherlands will be higher than the ratio set for Human Rights Watch globally. HRW Netherlands strives to maintain an 25% fundraising ratio. For the current year 2017/2018 the fund raising ration was 29% compare to 25% in 2016/2017.

Methods

Events

Voices for Justice Annual Dinner

HRW Netherlands organizes one fundraising event per year, the Voices for Justice Annual Dinner in November. Dinner revenue supports the organization's work worldwide and constitutes a significant portion of the funds raised in the Netherlands. Beyond fundraising, the dinner deepens relationships with existing supporters, attracts new supporters and further develops the HRW brand in the Netherlands.

Cultivation Events

Dutch supporters of HRW host briefings in their homes and offices to introduce their networks to the work of Human Rights Watch. Human Rights Watch researchers and advocates are the guests of honour and give first-hand accounts

of their work in the field. These events steward existing supporters and increase name recognition and exposure for the work of HRW, reaching new potential supporters.

Proposals

An individual interested in donating to Human Rights Watch may request a proposal defining the scope of the work their donation will enable including the timeframe, budget and the expected impact the work will have. Human Rights Watch also researches which foundations fund work similar to that of HRW and submit proposals asking for support. All proposals are prepared centrally by the Foundations team.

Affinity Groups

LGBT Global Circle

The LGBT Global Circle of Friends is an international community of supporters who financially support Human Rights Watch's work defending the rights of LGBT people with a minimum contribution of € 5,000 per year. Members receive benefits such as invitations to insider briefings with Human Rights Watch experts in the Netherlands and internationally. In 2017/2018 nine new members joined in the Netherlands, including four couples. There are now 17 Global Circle members in the Netherlands.

Lawyers for International Justice

In 2016 Human Rights Watch launched The Justice Circle, an initiative which aims to deepen the International Justice (IJ) program's connection to lawyers and other individuals interested in promoting justice for atrocities. Members donate € 2,500 or more per year to support the work of the International Justice division and receive benefits such as invitations to insider briefings and special events with Human Rights Watch experts in the Netherlands and internationally. There are currently 2 Dutch members.

2.6 Beneficiaries

The primary beneficiaries of Human Rights Watch's work are victims of human rights abuses or those at risk of abuse. Local non-profit organizations and civil society actors also benefit from our work as we seek to protect their rights to operate freely and to improve the human rights environment in which they work. We use our reputation as an internationally respected human rights organization to amplify the voices of local and regional civil society actors by connecting them with policymakers or funders to whom they may not otherwise have access.

As one of our target audiences, policymakers are well served by our timely reporting and advocacy. They often call on us for analysis in complex and fast-moving situations such as the refugee crisis in Europe. Our work elucidates complex situations from a human rights perspective, bringing to light little-known rights abuses and providing policymakers with concrete, realistic recommendations to address abuses. Media outlets also frequently turn to us for our analysis and insight on human rights stories. Our increasing use of multimedia plays a helpful role for media outlets, many of whom have had their foreign reporting budgets cut, by providing pre-packaged products—such as video, audio clips and photo essays—that can be easily incorporated into their programming.

2.7 Communication

Human Rights Watch communicates with a variety of Dutch stakeholders, including individual donors, foundations, companies, government officials, members of parliament, non-governmental organizations and media outlets. A number of methods are used.

Each year, Human Rights Watch publishes more than 60 reports and 1,700 press releases on human rights conditions in some 90 countries, generating extensive coverage in local and international media.

Social media is an increasingly important communication tool. In June 2018 Human Rights Watch had 25 million views on its [YouTube](#) channel, 17 million visits to its [website](#), 2.5 million [Facebook](#) followers, 3.7 million [Twitter](#) followers and 350,000 [Instagram](#) followers. A full list of HRW social accounts and their links can be found [here](#).

E-newsletters are the best way to get an overview of the world's most urgent human rights issues featuring written news, original video, pictures taken by award-winning photographers, and podcast interviews with Human Rights Watch researchers and eyewitnesses. A monthly, weekly and daily version are available. Supporters can subscribe for one or more versions [using this link](#).

In the Netherlands Human Rights Watch communicates most often through direct contact with supporters: emails, letters and phone calls, as well as an annual update on the work that their support has made possible. Netherlands Committee members receive a bi-weekly e-newsletter. We also have a [Dutch Facebook page](#) with 3,700 followers, Twitter account [@HRW_NL](#) has 1,000 followers, and Senior Press Officer [Jan Kooy](#) @KooyJan has a very popular and active [Twitter](#) account with 8,700 followers.

2.8 Risk Management

The management of Human Rights Watch Inc. designed a risk matrix focusing on the major risks the organisation is facing and the current controls that are in place. Throughout the year the management updates, evaluates and monitors the risks. On an annual basis they present a risk status report to the global board.

As this is an extensive report, this annual report only focuses on the principle risks for HRW NL.

Fundraising Risk

Human Rights Watch faces two primary risks with respect to its fundraising operation -- the unanticipated loss of a significant donor and a sustained global financial downturn.

Since a significant percentage of Human Rights Watch's income comes from a relatively small number of (institutional) foundations and individuals, the unanticipated loss of one or more significant donors could affect HRW's ability to raise sufficient funds to cover its operations. We reduce that risk through the HRW endowment and reserve funds, which are managed by the Investment Committee of the international Board of Directors. In addition, by building and strengthening the 1,000 member HRW Council, we are able to secure multi-year financial commitments and develop a steady flow of new supporters in our donor pipeline. Close communication with such major donors also allows us to be flexible in reallocating funds if needed. Lastly, there is also a provision in the organization's worldwide budget to help offset potential major donor falloff.

A sustained global financial downturn could also affect HRW's ability to raise sufficient funds to cover its operations. If we were to experience such a downturn, the endowment and reserves would help reduce possible funding gaps. Again, by continuing to build and strengthen the HRW Council, we reduce the chances that donors would decrease their giving

or end their pledges. Lastly, HRW continues to globally diversify its fundraising, which also helps to spread the risk associated with specific economies.

Financial and other internal control failures, errors and omissions

Lapses in oversight and/or financial and other internal controls could lead to fraud or material misstatement of the organization's financial position.

Current controls in place are:

- Documented fiscal policies and procedures
- Staff training
- Periodic reviews, reconciliations
- Internal and external audits
- Bank anti-fraud programs

Reputational risks

1) Reputational risks tied to staff or volunteers

Staff or volunteer misconduct has the potential to damage HRW's reputation.

Some examples of controls in place:

- Regular consultation with direct reports
- Institutional policies and procedures
- Organizational ombudspersons
- Insurance
- Organization policies addressing full range of misconduct
- Ensure appropriate supervisory systems are in place
- Training for staff and volunteers
- Stress and resilience counsellors

2) Reputational risks tied to donors and committee members

Given HRW's reputation for objective treatment of human rights issues, there is the potential for reputational damage if donors or committee members have conflicts of interest with HRW's institutional policies.

Some examples of controls in place:

- Identify conflicts of interest
- Active management of committees
- Institutional policies and procedures
- Business and Human Rights Division reviews and makes decisions concerning conflicts of interest

3) Reputational risks tied to partnerships and special events

Given HRW's reputation for objective treatment of human rights issues, there is the potential for reputational damage if partners or special event sponsors have conflicts of interest with HRW's institutional policies.

Some examples of controls in place:

- Vet partners prior to agreements
- Contract reviews
- Insurance

4) Reputational risk tied to Board members

Given HRW's reputation for objective treatment of human rights issues, there is the potential for reputational damage if Board members have conflicts of interest with HRW's institutional policies.

Board actions alleged to be negligent may trigger civil, criminal, and/or regulatory action against HRW and/or individual Board members.

Some examples of controls in place:

- Board candidate vetting processes
- Research on members and committee leadership vetting
- Insurance

Security Risk

This risk applies to our Netherlands based researcher working in the field.

Security remains a serious risk for our staff and the biggest impediment to accessing information needed to conduct our investigations. Researching human rights abuses sometimes requires staff to operate in hostile environments, and when doing so we must be fully aware of the security threats present in such locations. To manage and mitigate security risks, we have a full-time security director to help enhance the physical security of our frontline staff and to that of the partners with whom we work. Our researchers have undergone Hostile Environment and Emergency First Aid training. They check in with headquarters staff on a daily—sometimes hourly—basis, conduct extensive security analysis, and develop protection plans prior to arriving on mission.

IT security: attacks on and breaches of HRW IT systems

HRW's global profile makes it a target for state and non-state actors attempting to attack and breach IT systems.

Some examples of controls in place:

- Institutional policies and procedures
- Security assessments
- Staff training on threats and best practices; constant reminders
- Defensive/secure technologies
- Access controls and authentication
- Consultation and liaison with external subject matter experts as required

Data management

The lack of standardized information management systems increases risks pertaining to noncompliance with data protection legal requirements and effective information retrieval and processing.

Some examples of controls in place:

- HRW data protection policy
- HRW vendor management policy
- Improvement and automation of data management processes
- Training on European Data Protections Standards

3. MOST IMPORTANT ACTIVITIES 2017/2018

Human Rights Watch has earned a reputation as a leading human rights defender because of our ability to take on a broad spectrum of human rights concerns—from discrimination to genocide. We worked to mainstream the rights of marginalized people and include them in the larger human rights framework, including women; children; lesbian, gay, transgender, and bisexual people; people with disabilities; and victims of abuses related to the environment.

In 2017/2018 the activities of HRW Netherlands included fundraising, outreach and advocacy.

Part of the donations received in the Netherlands were used to support the work of Human Rights Watch globally. This work resulted in numerous impacts that can be found on our website <https://www.hrw.org/impact>.

3.1 Fundraising

Total income

In 2017/2018 Human Rights Watch Netherlands raised € 1,481,802 in donations.

This total amount raised was donated directly to the foundation in The Netherlands.

The total donations from donors based in the Netherlands was € 4,200,000 in 2017/2018.

This amount includes the amount donated directly to the foundation and contributions made to other Human Rights Watch entities.

Dutch Postcode Lottery

Human Rights Watch is incredibly grateful to the Dutch Postcode Lottery (NPL) for their annual structural support of Human Rights Watch Inc. in the Netherlands since 2009. The Dutch Postcode Lottery is the world's second largest private charity lottery and they provide Human Rights Watch Inc. with € 1,350,000 per year in general operating support. In 2017/2018 this generous donation was received on the Human Rights Watch Inc. bank account in Brussels. In January 2017 the NPL made an extra three-year grant for our Albinism Inclusion project.

Albinism Inclusion (ALINC); Children with Albinism in Tanzania and Mozambique

Because of a deadly myth that people born with albinism in Tanzania possess magical qualities and their organs and limbs bring prosperity, they are hunted, dismembered, and left behind to die by those who sell their body parts for thousands of dollars to witch doctors. Children with albinism live in fear of attack and are often separated from their families and communities to live in temporary shelters.



Photo: Sacha de Boer, part of the series 'Leven in de Schaduw'

Together with Liliane Fonds, and Karagwe Community Based Rehabilitation Program (KCBRP), Human Rights Watch received a grant from the Dutch Postcode Lottery for our [joint efforts](#) to dispel the deadly myths and ensure a safe environment for children with albinism in Tanzania and Mozambique. Human Rights Watch is investigating barriers to

safe and inclusive education and other basic human rights for children with albinism, exposing these barriers and the conditions in the temporary shelters where many of these children are segregated, and advocating for targeted policy reforms.

Part of the joint project is the photo exposition '[Leven in de Schaduw](#)' with photos by Sacha de Boer, exhibited in Den Haag, Rotterdam, 's-Hertogenbosch, Eindhoven, Groningen, Zwolle, Arnhem and Utrecht. Follow the project via [#Levenindeschaduw](#).

On International Albinism day we publish an op-ed article

13.07.2018/Joop.nl, '[Kinderen met albinisme horen thuis te wonen en naar school te gaan](#)' by Lea Labaki, Human Rights Watch



Voices for Justice Annual Dinner 2017



On 8 November 2017 the eighth edition of the Human Rights Watch Voices for Justice Annual Dinner was held in Theater Amsterdam. The evening grossed € 528,000 from table and ticket sales, a live auction and other donations at the event. The theme of the evening was freedom of speech. Speakers included HRW Deputy Director Media [Nic Dawes](#) Turkey director [Emma Sinclair-Webb](#), Russia Director & senior researcher [Tanya Lokshina](#) and [Stephen Dunbar-Johnson](#), International President New York Times. The primary goal for 2018 will be stabilizing income, which has decreased the past two years. The plan to do this includes recruiting new dinner committee members, attracting new table buyers, simplifying the program and reintroducing electronic bidding to the auction.

Foundation Support

[Adessium Foundation](#)

Protecting Civilians in Conflict in the Middle East and Advancing Refugee Rights in Europe

In the past year, long-running conflicts continued to rage throughout the Middle East and North Africa, putting millions of civilian lives at risk in the region and forcing people to seek safety across borders. In this challenging landscape, Human Rights Watch, with the generous support the Adessium Foundation, worked to end violations, promote accountability and the rule of law, and to protect the rights of refugees at every step of their journey towards a safe and secure home. Our work together has led to some promising results:

In **Iraq**, our [research](#) and advocacy pushed the government to close a so-called “rehabilitation camp” for families of suspected Islamic State (ISIS) fighters. The camp was punishing civilians, including women and children, for being related to ISIS suspects. Authorities relocated these families to regular camps for displaced persons in the area.

In **Syria**, our use of innovative [3D modelling](#) to recreate a US attack on a mosque forced the US government to admit that the target was, indeed, a place of worship—something it had initially denied.

In **Jordan**, authorities [finally agreed to an “amnesty”](#) that will allow Syrian refugees in urban areas to regularize their residency status. We have long called for this step to improve the well-being of refugee families and children’s chances of attending school. By late March, more than 22,000 Syrians living unofficially in urban areas had already signed up to regularize their residency status.

Our [multimedia feature](#) documenting a two-week rescue mission in the Mediterranean sea and the European Union’s (EU) containment policies in **Libya** was viewed more than 100,000 times on [Facebook](#), bringing a human angle to the immigration debate.

In response to a [joint digital advocacy campaign](#) in partnership with other human rights and humanitarian aid organizations, **Greece** committed to moving thousands of asylum seekers who were trapped in worsening winter weather conditions on the islands to better accommodations on the mainland. As a result of our advocacy efforts, more than 7,000 vulnerable women, men and children were transferred to safety on mainland Greece.

[Anonymous](#)

Addressing the Crisis in the Central African Republic

Thanks to the generous support of an anonymous donor, Human Rights Watch remains one of the only international rights organizations reporting from inside the Central African Republic (CAR). Our work has become ever more critical as the security situation has declined in the first months of 2018. We continue to expose growing unrest and push for greater civilian protection, including for the over 1.2 million Central Africans displaced by violence and insecurity.

More than 17 armed groups are currently vying for territory across CAR and continue to kill, rape, and destroy homes with impunity. The UN peacekeeping mission, MINUSCA, is struggling to effectively protect civilians, and recent attacks on humanitarian workers, as well as raids on hospitals and looting of supplies have disrupted the delivery of critical aid.

An example of our recent work:

In October and November 2017, both publicly and privately, we advocated strongly for an increase in MINUSCA's troop ceiling. The addition of 900 rapid response troops stands to protect more civilians and further deter fighting. The UN Security Council raised the troop ceiling in December and our contacts at the UN have told us that Human Rights Watch's efforts helped make the vote easier.

[Gieskes-Strijbis Fonds](#)

Defending Freedom of Expression, Association, and Religion across Central Asia

Human Rights Watch is extremely grateful for Gieskes-Strijbis Fonds' support of our work to defend fundamental freedoms in Central Asia. With the support of this grant from 1 July 2016 – 30 June 2020, we continuously expose these underreported rights violations in Central Asia. We document violations of freedom of association for trade unions and workers in Kazakhstan, investigate extreme restrictions on basic freedom in Tajikistan, and defend journalists and activists who experienced police harassment, threats, and detention while they were seeking to monitor and expose conditions for forced laborers in Uzbekistan's cotton fields.

In June 2017 we released a [report](#) and [video](#) jointly researched with the Uzbek-German Forum for Human Rights documenting massive and systematic forced labor in **Uzbekistan**, including in areas where the World Bank supports agricultural projects. Our research exposed that the World Bank is funding half a billion dollars in agricultural projects linked to forced and child labor in Uzbekistan. Following our [exposé](#) of this strategy discussion, the World Bank changed course and a Vice-President reached out to set up high-level meetings to discuss next steps in addressing abuses in the bank's Uzbekistan projects. International media outlets picked up on our work resulting in worldwide coverage of our findings, including in [the Huffington Post](#), [the Guardian](#), [NRC Handelsblad](#), [Financial Times](#), [Open Democracy](#), and many others. We also held a [Facebook live session](#) with our Europe and Central Asia Director, Senior Researcher, and the Director of the Uzbek-German Forum for Human Rights to discuss our findings and recommendations with the general public. We used Dutch social media to expose our work on child labor in Uzbekistan's cotton fields, including a video posted on our [Dutch Facebook page](#) and [tweets](#) tagging the Dutch World Bank director Frank Heemskerk.

In **Tajikistan**, despite the recent implementation of laws to prevent violence in the family, survivors and victims of domestic violence face inadequate protections. Therefore, we monitored the implementation to protect women and children in Tajikistan and documented ongoing violations and the lack of meaningful changes for women and children. We wrote to several government agencies and other bodies in Tajikistan to consult on our research findings and gather fresh information. Also in July 2017, Tajik security services officers and local officials publicly shamed, banned from leaving the country, and threatened to confiscate the property of relatives of 10 peaceful opposition activists who took part in a conference in Germany on July 9, 2017. In one case authorities threatened to rape an activist's daughter. In partnership with the Norwegian Helsinki Committee, we [reported](#) on these cases and urged the United States, the European Union, its member states, and other international partners to urgently address the growing pattern of retaliatory attacks in Tajikistan as part of the wider deteriorating human rights situation there and publicly condemn the abuses.

In 2017 we intensified our documentation and advocacy on harassment, surveillance, and legal prosecution or dismissals in apparent retaliation for labor activism in Central Asia's largest economy **Kazakhstan**. We documented widening repression, such as how authorities [shut down](#) the main independent trade union confederation and most recently [convicted](#) its leader, Larisa Kharkova, on politically motivated charges.

Stichting Run for Human Rights Watch

Stichting Run for Human Rights Watch consists of a group of 40 young adults who run the New York City Marathon and thereby raise money to support the work of Human Rights Watch. The profits raised are then donated to HRW Netherlands. In November 2017 Stichting Run for Human Rights Watch donated € 168,531 to the Environment and Human Rights Program of Human Rights Watch, including a matching donation from Brook Foundation. The group was initiated in 2009 by Stephanie van Rappard and Steven Visser and has raised a total of more than € 800.000 in the first eight years of its existence. Their support is very valuable to Human Rights Watch.



Photo: Stichting Run for Human Rights Watch presenting their cheque to Human Rights Watch in New York.

Stichting Alumni Run for Human Rights Watch

In October 2016, a group of dedicated former Run for Human Rights Watch runners set up the alumni network Stichting Run for Human Rights Watch Alumni. Via this network those who ran the NYC marathon in support of Human Rights Watch continue to support the organization, including attending gatherings and donating approximately 100 Euro per person per year to Human Rights Watch. In the fiscal year of 2017/2018, 45 alumni donated more than € 4,600.

LGBT Global Circle

There are now 17 Global Circle members in the Netherlands. In 2017/2018 nine new members joined in the Netherlands, including four couples. This was in part thanks to Dutch photographer Erwin Olaf, who hosted a dinner for his network and existing Global Circle members in his Amsterdam atelier in October. Each course was paired with an update from Boris Dittrich, head of LGBT Advocacy for HRW, on the human rights situation in a particular country. Between the courses Erwin gave an exclusive preview of his recent work in Shanghai, and asked guests to join him in supporting the LGBT work of Human Rights Watch.



Photo: Guests in Erwin Olaf's atelier 2017

Planned Giving

In fiscal year 2017/2018 two new gifts totalling € 31,806 were received.

In addition, a notary announced that one more gift will be made in 2018/2019 although the amount is not yet known.

3.2 Outreach

Human Rights Weekend

The [Human Rights Weekend](#) is a public annual event created in 2013 to raise awareness about human rights issues and abuses and create a dialogue between participants. Featuring films, (panel) discussions, masterclasses and other sessions, the Human Rights Weekend forms the Dutch edition of the [Human Rights Watch Film Festival](#). It creates a forum for courageous individuals on both sides of the lens to empower audiences with the knowledge that personal commitment can make a difference. The Weekend brings to life human rights abuses through storytelling in a way that challenges each individual to empathize and demand justice for all people.

Program

Thanks to our generous sponsors, the 2018 edition of the Human Rights Weekend was a success. Held from 2-4 February at De Balie in Amsterdam, the weekend was attended by more than 1,000 visitors. The theme "Where Do I Stand?" invited visitors to reflect on their own position towards human rights violations worldwide, and their (in)direct involvement. Special attention was paid to refugees, LGBT rights, business and human rights, the environment, and the power of visual images.



Photo: Human Rights Weekend 2018

There were 14 programs, including 6 Dutch film premieres, discussions, a panel and a masterclass. 53 speakers and moderators, including HRW staff, film directors, journalists, independent activists, academics, Human Rights Watch Netherlands Committee members, musicians and others took part in the program. Special speakers included director of Milieudefensie Donald Pols, Stichting Vluchteling director Tineke Ceelen, sports journalist Barbara Barend and 18-year-old wheelchair enabled Nujeen Mustafa, a refugee from Syria. We also collaborated with World Press Photo to present a photo exhibition during the event.



Photo: Audience Human Rights Weekend 2018

Communication and Publicity

The Human Rights Weekend received considerable attention in the press and on social media such as [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and for the first time [Instagram](#). The press dedicated a variety of articles to the Human Rights Weekend, including Dutch daily newspapers Het Financieele Dagblad ([January 27](#)) and Trouw ([3 February](#)); weekly news magazine De Groene Amsterdammer (8-page printed special in the week of [January 25](#)); and the Filmkrant ([January](#)). Youth and young adult medium VICE has published two pieces about the Weekend ([January 31](#) & [February 1](#)). Also, a variety of organizations, speakers and moderators promoted the film festival on their websites and social media outlets.



Several HRW staff members were interviewed in the lead-up to the weekend, including [Nadim Houry](#) in Dutch newspaper [AD](#); [Boris Dittrich](#) on Dutch radio station [FunX](#) and an interview with [Sarah Leah Whitson](#) in [Oneworld](#).

On De Balie's website you can find the [full program](#) and recordings of the discussions and masterclasses on [De Balie TV](#), which were also livestreamed on Facebook. A short [after movie](#) is available on the Human Rights Watch YouTube channel.

Looking Ahead

The 2019 Human Rights Weekend will be held again in De Balie from 7-10 February. We'll continue with the new branding created in 2018, work with new partners and topics, and give extra attention to increasing ticket sales by rethinking the structure and promotion of the event.

Partners and sponsors Human Rights Weekend 2018:



3.3 Press

Stichting Human Rights Watch Nederland bolsters domestic press coverage of human rights issues by preparing and distributing press releases and pitching stories tailored to the Dutch media. Human Rights Watch's research, findings, and recommendations are covered weekly by leading Dutch news outlets, including by NOS Journaal, Nieuwsuur and radio. In addition, our researchers are frequently interviewed by a large variety of national news outlets, including Trouw, de Volkskrant, NRC, and Telegraaf.

Please find below multiple examples of our Dutch press coverage in the fiscal year 2017/2018:

July 2017

- ✓ 03.07.2017/Volkskrant, [‘Bijna half miljoen gevluchte Syriërs keren terug, maar het land is nog lang niet veilig’](#), “Van geen enkel gebied in Syrië kunnen we zeggen dat het veilig is”, stelt Lamah Fakhri, die namens Human Rights Watch (HRW)”
- ✓ 07.07.2017/De Wereld Morgen BE, [‘Franse rechter onderzoekt oorlogsmisdaden in Syrië’](#), “Mensenrechtenorganisaties waaronder Human Rights Watch (HRW) zijn verheugd over de aanstelling van Marchi-Uhel. ‘Het wordt echter nog een lange tocht naar gerechtigheid voor de slachtoffers van dit bloedige conflict die niets anders hebben gekend dan lijden, wanhoop en eenzaamheid’, zegt HRW in een verklaring.”
- ✓ 18.07.2017/Trouw, [‘Indonesië pakt radicale islamisten aan’](#), “Dit is draconische wetgeving”, zegt Andreas Harsono, Indonesië-onderzoeker van Human Rights Watch. ‘Het is heel, heel zorgwekkend, ook omdat op deelname aan een verboden organisatie een maximumstraf staat van levenslang. De autoriteiten kunnen dit decreet in de toekomst ook gebruiken om de mond te snoeren van andere groepen, zoals religieuze minderheden, linkse organisaties of Papoea-groeperingen.”
- ✓ 20.07.2017/One World, [‘Vluchtelingenkinderen worden geïdentificeerd als volwassenen’](#), “Eva Cossé, onderzoeker voor Human Rights Watch Griekenland: ‘Kwetsbare kinderen in Griekenland die gevaarlijke reizen ver van hun families hebben gemaakt, zouden niet maandenlang moeten hoeven vechten om te bewijzen dat ze kinderen zijn. Griekenland zou zich beter moeten inzetten om kinderen goed te identificeren, zodat ze de zorg krijgen die ze nodig hebben en verdienen.”
- ✓ 27.07.2017/NOS, [‘Trump is met transgender-ban zijn harde aanhang aan het knuffelen’](#), “Een verrassing ja, maar misschien ook wel een truc om de aandacht af te wenden van het hele debacle rondom minister Jeff Sessions”, vertelt Boris Dittrich van mensenrechtenorganisatie Human Rights Watch”.

August 2017

- ✓ 02.08.2017/Villamedia, [‘Nieuwe wetten Rusland beperken online anonimiteit’](#), “Het recht om anoniem te zijn op internet beschermt de vrijheid van meningsuiting van gebruikers”, stelt Rusland-onderzoeker Yulia Gorbunova van Human Rights Watch. ‘Deze wetten hebben voor tientallen miljoenen Russen een negatief effect op die vrijheid.”
- ✓ 04.08.2017/AD, [‘Verkiezingen in Rwanda: wordt het Kagame of Kagame?’](#), “Human Rights Watch stelde vast dat mensen zijn geëxecuteerd na het stelen van een paar bananen of het vissen met illegale netten. De regering zou zich schuldig maken aan onderdrukking en intimidatie. Oppositieleden en journalisten worden opgepakt en verdwijnen soms zelfs.”
- ✓ 13.08.2017/NRC, [‘Palestijnse president Abbas wil critici van het regime opsluiten’](#), “In de afgelopen maand blokkeerde de Palestijnse regering enkele tientallen websites die gelieerd zijn aan rivalen van Abbas, zoals Hamas ... Het decreet past in een eerder al door Human Rights Watch (HRW) gesignaleerde trend van arrestatie, mishandeling en vervolging van Palestijnse journalisten en activisten. HRW documenteerde vijf gevallen waarin journalisten, een politiek activist en twee rappers werden gearresteerd of ondervraagd.”
- ✓ 17.08.2017/Volkskrant, [‘Filipijnen voeren oorlog tegen drugs op: 60 doden in 48 uur’](#), “De internationale mensenrechtenorganisatie Human Rights Watch onderzocht een flink aantal gevallen en concludeerde dat

de verdachten vrijwel zonder uitzondering in koelen bloede waren vermoord, waarna de politie een pistool en wat drugs bij het lichaam legde.”

- ✓ 28.08.2017/HUMO, [‘De 50 invloedrijkste Belgen ter wereld: peter Bouckaert \(Human Rights Watch\)’](#), “Bouckaerts onverschrokkenheid bracht hem de afgelopen decennia naar de slagvelden van Kosovo, Rwanda, de Centraal-Afrikaanse Republiek, Afghanistan, Libië, Syrië en de kusten van de Middellandse Zee, waar vluchtelingen op het ritme van de getijden blijven aanspoelen. Wat hij daar registreert en via zijn Twitteraccount verspreidt haalt vaak de voorpagina’s van internationale media.”

September 2017

- ✓ 01.09.2017/Trouw, [‘Hooggerechtshof: Verkiezingen Kenia moeten opnieuw’](#), “De politie trad hard op tegen betogers van de oppositie. Daardoor vielen minstens twaalf doden en veel gewonden, concludeerde mensenrechtenorganisatie Human Rights Watch (HRW) vorige week op basis van eigen onderzoek.”
- ✓ 02.09.2017/RTL Nieuws, [‘Duizenden huizen van moslims afgebrand in Myanmar’](#), “Ook mensenrechtenorganisatie Human Rights Watch (HRW) beschuldigt Myanmarse veiligheidstroepen van brandstichting en vernieling. “Recente satellietbeelden doen vrezen dat de vernielingen in de deelstaat Rakhine veel omvangrijker zijn dan gedacht”, zei Phil Robertson, HRW-directeur voor Azië.”
- ✓ 05.09.2017/NRC, [‘Suu Kyi: nepnieuws over Birma’](#), “Ondanks alle kritiek heeft Aung San Suu Kyi nog genoeg moreel gezag en steun bij het volk om het leger tot de orde te roepen, denkt Phil Robertson van Human Rights Watch Azië. „De legerbaas kan met één bevel deze zuiveringen stoppen en wie kan hem beter overhalen dan de leider van het eerlijk gekozen parlement?”
- ✓ 05.09.2017/Knack, [‘HRW: ‘China bouwt kwalijke mensenrechtenreputatie op binnen VN’](#), “De Chinese regering moet stoppen met zijn pogingen mensenrechtenactiviteiten bij de Verenigde Naties tegen te werken. Dat zegt mensenrechtenorganisatie Human Rights Watch (HRW) in een rapport.”

Oktober 2017

- ✓ 04.10.2017/NOS, [‘Ijzingwekkend rapport over slachting in Rohingya-dorp’](#), “Human Rights Watch (HRW) heeft een gedetailleerd verslag uitgebracht van het optreden van het Myanmarse leger in het Rohingya-dorp Maung Nu, in de deelstaat Rakhine, op 27 augustus. HRW-onderzoekers spraken met veertien overlevenden en getuigen van het bloedbad.”
- ✓ 12.10.2017/NRC, [‘Human Rights Watch: Turkse politie martelt burgers’](#), “Nu het bewijs van marteling in politiebewaring zich opstapelt, moet de regering dringend onderzoek doen en een oproep doen om er een einde aan te maken”, zei Hugh Williamson, de Europa en Centraal-Azië directeur van Human Rights Watch.”
- ✓ 16.10.2017/NRC, [‘Tweederde meisjes in Afghanistan krijgt geen les’](#), “Twee op de drie meisjes in Afghanistan gaan niet naar school, stelt Human Rights Watch. De campagne van het Westen is goeddeels mislukt.”
- ✓ 20.10.2017/OneWorld, [‘Klopjacht op LGBT’ers in ex-Sovjetlanden’](#), “Er is een klopjacht gaande op LGBT’ers in meerdere voormalige Sovjetlanden. Volgens een rapport van Human Rights Watch (HRW) worden LGBT’ers thuis en op straat door de politie opgepakt en vervolgens op onredelijke gronden dagenlang vastgehouden voor ondervraging. In detentie worden ze gemarteld en gedwongen om seksuele partners te verklappen.”

November 2017

- ✓ 09.11.2017/OneWorld, [‘Weinig hulp voor Indiase verkrachtingsslachtoffers: Wetgeving en beleid verbeterd, maar implementatie laat te wensen over’](#), “Vijf jaar geleden was India geschokt door de gewelddadige groepsverkrachting in Delhi en werd opgeroepen het taboe rond seksueel geweld te doorbreken en het justitiesysteem te hervormen”, zegt Meenakshi Ganguly, directeur Zuid-Azië bij HRW. “Vandaag zijn er betere wetten en er is een beter beleid, maar er moet nog veel gebeuren om te garanderen dat politie, artsen en rechtbanken de slachtoffers met respect behandelen.”

- ✓ 15.11.2017/Trouw, [‘Zorgen over Chinese ‘behandelingen’ voor homoseksualiteit’](#), “Ook al is homoseksualiteit niet meer strafbaar, toch is het ‘sociale stigma’ groot, zegt Boris Dittrich, directeur LHBT-rechten bij HRW en voormalig D66-Kamerlid. “Het is voor Chinezen heel belangrijk om voor nakomelingen te zorgen.” En dus nemen ouders van LHBT-kinderen hun toevlucht tot schimmige praktijken.”
- ✓ 16.11.2017/De Volkskrant, [‘Is het einde in zicht voor de eeuwige Afrikaanse leiders?’](#), “Ken Roth, directeur van Human Rights Watch, is voorzichtig optimistisch. ‘De reden waarom deze dictators zo lang aan de macht blijven, is uiteindelijk ook de reden waarom ze worden verjaagd, zegt hij over de telefoon vanuit New York.’”
- ✓ 27.11.2017/AD, [‘Vietnamese blogger krijgt 7 jaar cel voor ‘opruimende berichten’ na giframp’](#), “De afgelopen 12 maanden arresteerde de politie 28 personen, die werden aangeklaagd voor overtredingen met betrekking tot de nationale veiligheid. ‘Vage interpretaties van de wet’, aldus Human Rights Watch.”

December 2017

- ✓ 01.12.2017, Trouw, [‘Een eenzaam gevecht voor mensenrechten tegen de machtige sportkoepels’](#), “Bij het sportcongres Play the Game in Eindhoven uit Human Rights Watch zijn zorgen over de grote sportevenementen die eraan komen. Of liever: over de gastlanden die het niet zo nauw nemen met de mensenrechten. [...] “Op de lange termijn zie ik vooruitgang, maar op de korte termijn hebben we te maken met Rusland en Qatar,” zegt Minky Worden van Human Rights Watch.”
- ✓ 14.12.2017/OneWorld, [‘China slaat biometrische data van miljoenen Oeigoeren op’](#), “Bij DNA en bloedtype gebeurt dat tijdens een jaarlijkse gratis gezondheidscontrole. Het is niet duidelijk of de deelnemers weten dat er gevoelig materiaal wordt opgeslagen, zegt HRW. “Het verplicht opslaan van dit soort gegevens van een hele bevolking, inclusief DNA, is een grove schending van de internationale mensenrechtennorm”, zegt Sophie Richardson.
- ✓ 14.12.2017/Nieuwsuur, [Akshaya Kumar over Rohingya](#) (min. 26:01).
- ✓ 21.12.2017/OneWorld, [‘Asielzoekers moeten dringend weg van Griekse eilanden’](#), “De maatregel om 5000 asielzoekers naar het vasteland te halen, is maar half uitgevoerd”, zegt Eva Cossém Griekenlandonderzoeker bij HRW. “Het is een belangrijke start, maar er is meer nodig, inclusief steun van andere EU-regeringen, zodat niemand bij vorst in een tent hoeft te zitten.”
- ✓ 16.12.2017/De Volkskrant, [‘Oud dictator Peru vrijgelaten, boze Peruanen de straat op’](#), “José Miguel Vivanco, Amerika’s directeur van mensenrechtenorganisatie Human Rights Watch noemde het een ‘vulgaire politieke onderhandeling, in ruil voor het aan de macht blijven van Kuczynski’.

January 2018

- ✓ 04.01.2018/Financieel Dagblad, [‘Het systeem dat China ‘eerlijk’ maakt’](#), “Het sociale kredietsysteem is één grote black box”, stelt Maya Wang, China-onderzoeker bij Human Rights Watch in Hongkong. “Want wie bepaalt er bijvoorbeeld welk gedrag beloond moet worden en wat bestraft? En wat gebeurt er als je in beroep wil gaan tegen een straf? Objectieve criteria ontbreken: tot nu toe is het allemaal erg arbitrair”, stelt Wang.”
- ✓ 06.01.2018/OneWorld, [‘Een jongetje goot benzine over mijn lichaam’](#), “In Ghana zijn homo’s tweederangsburgers, stelt Human Rights Watch in een nieuw rapport. Daarin getuigt onder meer een lesbische vrouw hoe ze geslagen en met benzine overgoten werd. Homoseksualiteit is nog steeds strafbaar in het land.”
- ✓ 23.01.2018/Trouw, [‘De Thaise visindustrie is nog steeds een hel voor werknemers’](#), “Volgens Brad Adams, Azië directeur van HRW, moet vooral het Thaise ministerie van arbeid meer doen om arbeiders te beschermen. “maar dat staat onder druk van grote visserijbedrijven, want dit betekent dat die nu het minimumloon moeten betalen en dan ook nog eens één keer per maand. Zij proberen de boel zoveel mogelijk te vertragen.”
- ✓ 26.01.2018/De Volkskrant, [‘Joodse organisatie boycot Holocaustherdenking in Oostenrijk vanwege rechts-populisten in regering’](#), ‘Hoe lastig het ook is, de Duitsers moeten oppassen dat ze niet weggijken, vindt Wenzel Michalski, de directeur van Human Rights Watch in Duitsland, zelf Joods. ‘Duitsland is

wereldkampioen herdenken en daar is het trots op', zei hij deze week tegen een groep internationale journalisten. 'Maar soms het ik het idee dat de Duitsers juist daardoor blind geworden zijn voor het nieuwe, alledaagse antisemitisme.'"

February 2018

- ✓ 03.02.2018/OneWorld, [‘De meest verontrustende trends uit de conflicten in het Midden-Oosten’](#), "OneWorld sprak met Sarah Leah Whitson, HRW's Midden-Oosten directeur, naar aanleiding van hun onlangs gepubliceerde rapport met de vijf meest verontrustende trends uit de conflicten in het Midden-Oosten."
- ✓ 03.02.2018/AD, [‘Human Rights Watch: Die Nederlandse kinderen hebben geen toekomst in Syrië’](#), "Haal de Europese IS-vrouwen en hun kinderen terug naar Europa en berecht de vrouwen hier. 'Dat zou het beste zijn voor de slachtoffers die IS gemaakt heeft, want op die manier komt er nog gerechtigheid', stelt Nadim Houry, directeur van het terreur en antiterreurprogramma van Human Rights Watch."
- ✓ 11.02.2018/Duurzaam Nieuws, [‘Zo draagt Valentijnsdag bij aan kinderarbeid’](#), "Veel juweliers kunnen meer doen om erachter te komen of hun goud of diamanten besmet zijn door kinderarbeid of andere mensenrechtenschendingen", zegt Juliane Kippenberg, adjunct kinderrechtendirecteur bij Human Rights Watch. "Wanneer iemand deze Valentijnsdag een sieraad koopt voor zijn geliefde, moeten ze hun juwelier vragen wat ze hebben gedaan om meer te weten te komen ver de herkomst."
- ✓ 23.02.2018/DeMorgen, [‘Satellietbeelden tonen systematische vernieling van Rohingya-dorpen in Myanmar’](#), "Heel wat van deze dorpen waren het toneel van gruwelijkheden jegens de Rohingya en zouden bewaard moeten blijven, opdat experts van de VN het bewijs kunnen bestuderen en de schuldigen kunnen aanwijzen", betoogt Brad Adams, directeur Azië bij Human Rights Watch, in een verklaring."

March 2018

- ✓ 01.03.2018/De Volkskrant, [‘Moskou dreigt Europese Mensenrechtenverdrag op te zeggen – activisten slaan alarm: ‘Schadelijk voor Russen’](#), "Ook dreigt het de samenwerking met het Europese Hof voor de Mensenrechten op te zeggen. [...] Tanja Loksina van Human Rights Watch in Moskou noemde het hof het 'meest succesvolle internationale beschermingsmechanisme'".
- ✓ 08.03.2018/DeMorgen, [‘Nog altijd 13.000 vluchtelingen vast op de Griekse eilanden’](#), "Duizenden asielzoekers zitten vast op de Egeïsche eilanden in miserable omstandigheden, zonder toegang tot geschikte bescherming en basisdiensten, zeggen negen organisaties, waaronder Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, Oxfam en Refugee Rights Europe."
- ✓ 10.03.2018/NOS, [‘Verwijderde video brengt verkiezingscampagne Orbán op stoom’](#), "Critici, zoals mensenrechtenorganisatie Human Rights Watch, zeggen dat Orbán probeert met campagnes tegen migranten en Soros de aandacht af te leiden van echte problemen in Hongarije, zoals ondermaats onderwijs, gebreken in de gezondheidszorg en corruptie."
- ✓ 17.03.2018/De Standaard, [‘Eerst de feiten, dan het activisme: Kenneth Roth, scherprechter Human Rights Watch’](#), interview met Executive Director Kenneth Roth.
- ✓ 22.03.2018/de Volkskrant, [‘Jonge Palestijnse activiste Tamimi krijgt acht maanden cel voor het slaan van een Israëlische soldaat’](#), "'Israël sluit dit kind acht maanden op omdat zij opriep tot protesten en omdat zij een soldaat sloeg', aldus directeur Sarah Leah Whitson van de Midden-Oostenafdeling van Human Rights Watch over de veroordeling van Tamimi."
- ✓ 25.03.2018/NOS, [‘Verkiezingen in Egypte, maar waar is de Moslimbroederschap?’](#), "volgens organisaties als Amnesty International en Human Rights Watch gaat het wat betreft de mensenrechten veel slechter in Egypte dan in 2010, toen het land nog bestuurd werd door de dictator Hosni Mubarak."

April 2018

- ✓ 03.04.2018/NRC, [‘Excessief geweld Israël is over de schreef en contraproductief’](#), “Human Rights Watch heeft Israël ervan beschuldigd vanuit veilige positie het vuur te hebben geopend op demonstranten waarvan geen acute dreiging uitging.”
- ✓ 04.04.2018/Trouw, [‘In Turkije staat een groep Syriërs te dringen om een uitreisbewijs; ze willen naar huis’](#), “Human Rights Watch publiceerde onlangs een vernietigend rapport, waarin het concludeert dat Turkse grenswachters de vluchtelingen gedwongen terugsturen.”
- ✓ 08.04.2018/Nederlands Dagblad, [‘Vluchtelingen Afrin mogen niet weg’](#), “Syrische regeringstroepen houden mensen tegen die willen vluchten uit de Syrische regio Afrin. Dat verklaarde Human Rights Watch (HRW) zondag.”
- ✓ 24.04.2018/BNR Nieuwsradio, [‘Chinese Tech-bedrijven discrimineren vrouwen in vacatures’](#), “Chinese techbedrijven als Alibaba, Baidu en Tencent staan niet bepaald open voor vrouwen, als het om nieuwe medewerkers gaat. Dat blijkt uit onderzoek van Human Rights Watch.”

May 2018

- ✓ 08.05.2018/Vrij Nederland, [‘Dit is waarom Italië vandaag wordt aangeklaagd door mensenrechtenadvocaten’](#), “... dus krijgt de Libische kustwacht zo veel mogelijk ruim baan van de Italiaanse autoriteiten, een praktijk die juristen uit verschillende hoeken sterk veroordelen. ‘Het is een gevaarlijke ontwikkeling, het zorgt voor onveiligheid in internationale wateren,’ zegt Judith Sunderland van Human Rights Watch.”
- ✓ 15.05.2018, AD, [‘FIFA moet Rusland wijzen op mensenrechten’](#), “Volgens Human Rights Watch is sprake van de ergste crisis sinds het Sovjettijdperk. De mensenrechtenorganisatie presenteert dinsdag een 44 pagina's tellende gids voor journalisten die verslag doen van het WK, dat over een kleine maand begint.”
- ✓ 15.05.2018/Elsevier Weekblad, [‘Zo reageert de wereld op het geweld in Gaza’](#), “Human Rights Watch is kritisch op de regering-Trump, die Israëlische scherpschutters ‘groen licht’ zou geven om te blijven doden.”
- ✓ 23.05.2018/Nieuwsuur, [‘Nederlander in Irak vast voor terrorisme’](#), “In Iraakse gevangenissen wachten nog veel meer buitenlandse mannen en vrouwen op hun proces. Het zou gaan om 1300 buitenlandse vrouwen en een onbekend aantal buitenlandse mannen. Tientallen zijn al ter dood veroordeeld. Volgens Human Rights Watch gaat het in totaal om zo'n 20.000 zaken.”

June 2018

- ✓ 4.06.2018/Trouw, [‘Plots staan Congolese dorpen weer in brand, niemand weet precies waarom’](#), “Anderen beweren dat machthebbers van buiten chaos creëren om van de natuurlijke rijkdommen in Ituri te profiteren. “Er is niet een narratief dat het allemaal verklaart”, vertelt Ida Sawyer, afdelingshoofd Centraal Afrika van Human Rights Watch.”
- ✓ 12.06.2018/NU.nl, [‘Vietnamese regering stemt voor zeer strenge internetwet’](#), “Volgens Human Rights Watch is de wet een bedreiging voor vrijheid van meningsuiting en vrije toegang tot informatie.”
- ✓ 13.06.2018/Joop (BNN Vara), [‘Kinderen met albinisme horen thuis te wonen en naar school te gaan’](#), opiniestuk door Lea Labaki, Junior Researcher and Advocate, Disability Rights.
- ✓ 19.06.2018/Telegraaf, [‘Hongarije wil helpen asielzoekers strafbaar maken’](#), “Zo schrijft Human Rights Watch in een verklaring: „De wet bestraft activiteiten die rechtmatig en noodzakelijk zijn, vooral in een land waar de regering systematisch het asielsysteem aan het ontmantelen is.”

3.4 Advocacy

While the core activities of HRW Netherlands are development and outreach, the organization is also active in the Dutch political landscape through advocacy initiatives. We strengthen our relations with the Dutch government and parliament and raise our research and recommendations on pressing human rights issues.

Throughout the year 2017/2018 our advocates and researchers from the field had regular meetings about pressing human rights issues with, for example, members of parliament, representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Ministry of Security and Justice. To maximize impact, we decided to focus our advocacy on thematic areas where we believe The Netherlands can make a significant difference at the international level. Some examples of the meetings that took place are:

- The Netherlands continues to be actively involved in EU migration policies and despite being under a lot of pressure domestically, has still been supportive of greater solidarity and responsibility sharing with first EU countries of arrival. On-going negotiations of the EU Common Asylum System and Dublin show that the ongoing engagement of Human Rights Watch with the Dutch government about migration is of importance.

Among other occasions, in November 2017 our Europe and Central Asia Advocacy Director [Philippe Dam](#) visited the Netherlands to discuss the refugee crisis and the response of the Netherlands and EU at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Dam and a representative of HRW Netherlands joined a round table discussion with representatives from several NGO's. Following this meeting, Dam had one-on-one contact about the priorities with the Ministry's Special Envoy of Migration and Migration Policy Coordinator. Read [here](#) more on our work on migration.

- That same month, Senior Africa Researcher [Lewis Mudge](#) visited the Netherlands as part of a trip to the UN in Geneva to advocate for more support to Rwanda and the Great Lakes. In The Hague, Mudge spoke to member of parliament Lilianne Ploumen, policy officers and the special envoy to the Great Lakes region of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to address the worrying situation in the Great Lakes Region. Among other matters, he addressed our latest findings in Rwanda as published in the November report "[Rwanda: Cover-Up Negates Killings](#)".

Rwanda, as well as Great Lakes countries Burundi, Kenya and Uganda are priority countries within the foreign affairs policy of the Dutch government.

- In March 2018, our North Korea Researcher visited the Netherlands after an advocacy trip to the Human Rights Council in Geneva. The researcher met with members of parliament, representing several political parties, to discuss the human rights situation in North Korea and what the role of the Netherlands could be in improving this situation. For more information about our work on North Korea, please visit [this page](#).

The human rights situation in North Korea and of its civilians elsewhere is a recurring topic on the Dutch parliamentarian as well as governmental agenda.

In addition to these meetings in The Hague, we reached out to representatives of the government, parliament and others in different ways, including sharing reports with the latest findings and sending letters raising awareness and asking for action, for example:

- For more than two years, Human Rights Watch and other international, regional and Yemeni human rights groups [called on the United Nations member states](#) - including the Netherlands - to confront a mounting list of abuses in Yemen. For those two years, the response hewed closer to indifference – or at least learned silence in the face of bullying by Saudi Arabia and its allies – than to global concern.

On 29 September 2017, however, the UN Human Rights Council took a significant step toward ending war crimes in Yemen. This is a testament to activists across Yemen and around the world who demonstrated that, regardless of the powerful interests at play, the UN's preeminent human rights institution could do more to protect civilian lives. A Core Group of countries – the Netherlands, Canada, Luxembourg, Belgium, and Ireland – took up the call and made it possible. The council found a way to bring an unprecedented level of scrutiny to the conduct of all parties to the Yemen war. Read more about [this news](#) and [our work on Yemen](#).

- In the context of Human Rights Watch's broader [#ExpelFidesz campaign](#), we specifically targeted the Dutch member of the European People's Party (EPP), CDA, via personal letters, an [op-ed](#) and a social media campaign. The campaign in parallel targeted the German EPP members, CDU and CSU. We raised our concerns regarding the policy of Hungary's governing party that uses xenophobia to fuel discrimination against migrants and is trying to silence NGOs.

The CDA was the first party to formally adopt the position that there is red line to Fidesz membership to the EPP. Other politicians have spoken up, including in Germany, Sweden, France and Finland, but the CDA became the first EPP member to take such a position formally – an impact we should continue to build on.

Also, government representatives were invited to attend and speak at the annual Human Rights Weekend, our public outreach event on human rights. This year, two Dutch members of European Parliament joined us to share their knowledge and experience at the EU-level: Marietje Schaake on LGBT rights and Kati Piri on human rights in Turkey.

3.5 Additional visits international staff

Throughout the year many international research, program and executive staff members of Human Rights Watch visit the Netherlands for advocacy, fundraising and media purposes. Below is an overview of these visits. During their visits, international staff are accompanied by their Netherlands colleagues.

July 2017

- ✓ [Liesl Gernholtz](#), Executive Director, Women's Rights Division; Interim Director, Africa Division visited the Netherlands from 20-27 July and met with Plan Nederland, the Red Umbrella Fund, and individual donors.

August 2017

- ✓ [Graeme Reid](#), Director, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Rights Program, was in the Netherlands from 31 July-4 August for a teaching engagement and also met with Global Circle supporters.
- ✓ [Boris Dittrich](#), Advocacy Director LGBT Rights, visited the Netherlands from 27 July until 6 August. He participated in several activities related to Pride Amsterdam and gave a lecture on LGBT rights and populism at the University of Leiden.

September 2017

- ✓ [Shantha Rau Barriga](#), Director of Disability Rights, came from Brussels for the Netherlands Committee meeting on 27 September. She also spoke at the opening of the photo exhibition 'Leven in de Schaduw' in Den Bosch and met with Liliane Fonds.

October 2017

- ✓ [Lydia Gall](#), human rights lawyer and HRW researcher on Western Europe and the Balkans visited the Netherlands to have dinner with the Run for Human Rights Watch group.
- ✓ Kristine Jensen, Senior Director Foundations & Program Liaison Office of HRW Denmark came to the Netherlands to meet with representatives of the Gieskes-Strijbis Foundation and Plan Nederland.

- ✓ The director of HRW's International Justice program, [Richard Dicker](#), held briefings at the Amsterdam offices of professional database corporation LexisNexis, Jones Day and other individuals to discuss the International Justice Circle.
- ✓ [Kenneth Roth](#), Executive Director of HRW visited the Netherlands for breakfast briefings in Amsterdam and Rotterdam. He also met with Gieskes-Strijbis Foundation, the Dutch Postcode Lottery and individual supporters. Moreover, Kenneth spoke to journalists from NRC Handelsblad and Algemeen Dagblad.

November 2017

- ✓ [Lewis Mudge](#), senior researcher of the HRW Africa Division, came to the Netherlands as part of a trip to the UN in Geneva to advocate for more support to Rwanda and the Great Lakes. He met with Anneke Verbraeken, journalist and author of the book "Rich people don't die: confronting acquaintances in Congo and Rwanda". In The Hague, Mudge spoke to Member of Parliament Lilianne Ploumen (PvdA), policy officers of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the special envoy to the Great Lakes region.
- ✓ Europe's Advocacy Director, [Philippe Dam](#) was in The Netherlands on an advocacy tour. He met with several staff members advising the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, among them the Central Europe Deputy Chief, and specialists on Azerbaijan, Russia and Central Asia. Moreover, he had meetings with Members of Senate and Parliament Tineke Strik (GroenLinks) and Bram van Oijk (GroenLinks) respectively.

December 2017

- ✓ [Heather Barr](#), Senior Researcher at HRW's Women's Rights Division visited the Netherlands to speak at ABN AMRO's International Human Rights Conference.

January 2018

- ✓ Middle East and North Africa Executive Director [Sarah Leah Whitson](#) visited the Netherlands before going to Lebanon. She had meetings with Members of Parliament Han ten Broeke (VVD) and Sjoerd Sjoerdsma (D66) and the Director of the Middle East/North Africa Department (DAM) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Brigitte Tazelaar.

February 2018

- ✓ [Nadim Houry](#), Director of the Terrorism and Counterterrorism Program attended the Human Rights Weekend (HRWeekend) to speak at the Q&A session of the opening movie 'Lost in Lebanon'.
- ✓ Satellite Imagery Analyst [Josh Lyons](#) spoke at the 'Burma and Human Rights Imagery' event during the HRWeekend in Amsterdam.
- ✓ Andrea Holley, HRW's Film Festival Strategic Director moderated the 'Burma and Human Rights Imagery' session and joined to help coordinate the HRWeekend Amsterdam.
- ✓ [Marcos Orellana](#), Director of the Environment and Human Rights Program participated in the 'Challenges and Opportunities for Environmental Activists' discussion and the Q&A after the movie 'Silas' during the HRWeekend.
- ✓ HRW's Director of the Disability Rights program [Shanta Rau Barriga](#) joined the discussion 'The Forgotten Billion: Giving Voice to People with Disabilities' during the HRWeekend.
- ✓ Deputy Director of the Europe and Central Asia Division [Benjamin Ward](#) came to Amsterdam during the HRWeekend to participate in the discussion 'Taking Stock of Human Rights in Turkey'.
- ✓ [Yulia Gorbunova](#), Russia Researcher at HRW spoke during the Q&A session after the movie 'The Trial: The State of Russia vs Oleg Sentsov' during the HRWeekend in Amsterdam.
- ✓ Deputy United Nations Director at HRW, [Akshaya Kumar](#) came to Amsterdam to join the HRW Weekend for the program 'Burma and Human Rights Imagery'. She also met with Members of Parliament Sadet Karabulut (SP) and Bram van Oijk (GroenLinks); met with representatives from the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW); and spoke at a cultivation event.
- ✓ Central Asia Researcher [Mihra Rittman](#) came to the HRWeekend to participate in the discussion 'Clothing, Energy and Human Rights'. During her stay in the Netherlands she met with Members of Parliament Martijn

van Helvert (CDA) and Achraf Bouali (D66). She also had a meeting with staff from the Central Asia department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and representatives of the Gieskes-Strijbis Foundation.

March 2018

- ✓ The North Korea researcher visited the Netherlands after an advocacy trip to the HRC in Geneva. In The Hague the researcher met with Members of Parliament Raymond de Roon (PVV), Sadet Karabulut (SP) and Lilianne Ploumen (PVDA); individual supporters; and spoke at a cultivation event.

April 2018

- ✓ [Amr Magdi](#), researcher in the Middle East and North Africa division, was invited by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs to speak about the political situation and presidential elections in Egypt. Moreover, he had meetings with Sadet Karabulut (SP), Lilianne Ploumen (PvdA), Sjoerd Sjoerdsma (D66), Martijn van Helvert (CDA), Achraf Bouali (D66) and Bente Becker (VVD) and had a joint meeting with the Dutch Human Rights Ambassador, Director Middle East North Africa of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Amnesty International and other NGOs.
- ✓ [Philippe Dam](#), Advocacy Director for the Europe and Central Asia Division, visited the Netherlands for advocacy meetings and to speak during the Netherlands Committee Spring Meeting.
- ✓ Laura Boardman, Managing Director Development & Global Initiatives, came to the Netherlands to attend the Netherlands Committee Spring Meeting.

May 2018

- ✓ [Shantha Rau Barriga](#), Director of the Disability Rights Division, met with the Dutch Postcode Lottery and Liliane Foundation to talk about the joint project on children with albinism.
- ✓ Senior Libya Researcher [Hanan Salah](#) and International Justice Director [Richard Dicker](#) attended the Amsterdam Dialogue, an annual conference about peace and justice in violent conflict situations.
- ✓ [Patricia Gossman](#), Senior Researcher on Afghanistan, visited the Netherlands to call attention to a [report](#) about insurgent attacks on civilians in Afghanistan.

June 2018

- ✓ [Meenakshi Ganguly](#), South Asia Director, visited the Netherlands to speak at the annual Run for Human Rights Watch Auction.
- ✓ [Fred Abrahams](#), Associate Director for Program, came to Amsterdam and Rotterdam to give breakfast briefings about how technological developments can threaten human rights and how Human Rights Watch can use technological tools to investigate and expose violations. He also met with Shelter City and several individuals.

3.6 Evaluation

HRW Netherlands and Human Rights Watch are committed to rigorous, transparent, and consistent monitoring and self-evaluation. When looking at impact, the Human Rights Watch network determines whether or not it has met its goals to bring about positive change for those facing human rights violations. HRW Netherlands and Human Rights Watch consider input on progress from key interlocutors, local human rights partners, and critics. They gauge how effectively they have allocated resources. To ensure that the Human Rights Watch network reaches the highest standards of accuracy and objectivity in its research and achieves the greatest impact from its advocacy, it engages in self-evaluation throughout the year.

Often, since it takes a great deal of time to bring entrenched human rights abuses to an end, HRW Netherlands and Human Rights Watch consider interim criteria for evaluation. These include:

- whether we have succeeded in generating prominent Dutch press coverage about the abuses investigated
- whether the Dutch or other governments acted on these revelations by protesting the abuses or exerting diplomatic or economic pressure on the abusive government
- whether we succeeded in building or protecting outspoken Dutch opposition to abuses
- whether and how Dutch and other governments engage with the Human Rights Watch network or adopt and implement new policies to address the abuses it identifies and documents
- whether efforts are reflected in support from public media and Dutch donors
- whether the abuses we have investigated and reported on decrease or come to an end

Fundraising success is measured by whether we raise the operating budget each year. A leadership gifts team focuses on the strategy for exceptional gifts of \$100K + USD, while a team of four managing directors each oversee a portfolio of city directors, include the Netherlands (associate) director. Each city/country office determines its own goals in coordination with her/his managing director.

All HRW employees are required to set annual goals that are specific, measurable, attainable, realistic & tangible. Six-month and annual performance reviews are completed for each employee by her or his supervisor, evaluating whether the employee is on track to realize those goals. Netherlands staff meet weekly to review all current projects and ensure efficient collaboration.

2017/2018

In 2017/2018 HRW Netherlands arranged multiple advocacy meetings with key decision-makers and influencers in the country and delivered valuable input to Dutch news outlets on many occasions. HRW Netherlands also held several events, showcasing the work of Human Rights Watch researchers and raising funds e.g. the Voices for Justice Dinner and Human Rights Weekend. The biggest challenge was adapting to the elimination of the position of senior director.

3.6.1 Evaluation summary of qualitative objectives

Fundraising

Dutch Postcode Lottery

- The objective was to get a renewal and raise of our annual grant by the Dutch Postcode Lottery. This was realised in March 2018 and honoured with a raise from € 900,000 to € 1,350,000 for a period of 5 years. The donation was received on the Brussels bank account.

Voices for Justice dinner 2017

- The target was to raise € 600,000 with the annual dinner in November 2017. Eventually we raised € 528,000. This decrease is caused by fewer guests attending the dinner and less money was raised at the live auction.

- Another target was to find a new and fresh venue for the annual dinner. This turned out in to a great success. Not only because of the services at the location Theater Amsterdam, but also because the total costs of the venue and catering were cheaper than the costs in the previous year.

Run for Human Rights Watch

- In 2017/2018 the foundation had to find a matching donor for the donation of Run for Human Rights Watch. This goal was realised, and the foundation received a matching gift by Brook Foundation of € 84,265.

Events

- HRW Netherlands organized one high-end event for the members of the LGBT Global Circle (Erwin Olaf dinner in Oct. 2017)
- Create a positive atmosphere with the Netherlands Committee and organize one of their half-year meetings at a very special location. This was realised at a private museum.

Affinity groups

Lawyers for International Justice

- In the fiscal year 2017-2018 the focus was on cultivating the relationships with the existing Lawyers for International Justice members as well as current and prospect International Justice donor organizations, such as law firms and other law centred organizations. This goal was realised. 2018-2019 is projected as the year to relaunch the Lawyers for International Justice circle of individual donors.

4. FUTURE

4.1 Strategy and expectations new fiscal year

As we approach our 40th anniversary, Human Rights Watch is comprised of some 440 staff who represent 77 nationalities and strive daily to achieve equality, justice, and dignity for all. However, today many leaders worldwide—and the waves of popular support that brought them to power—are indifferent or hostile to human rights and these cherished values.

Two trends today provide the impetus for us to reflect on our strengths and adapt. First, public opinion is an increasingly contested space. We are grappling with challenges presented by the rise in anti-rights populism, dramatic shifts in technology that are fundamentally altering the ways in which information is disseminated and opinion is formed, and growing cynicism of expertise and facts. Second, and by contrast, technology presents us with opportunities to tell human rights stories in a much more compelling way and to reach new audiences, so they defend shared messages and values.

Our proven methodology of investigating abuses, exposing wrongdoing, and advocating for change has real value in these circumstances. Yet it must also evolve to remain effective. Proactively defending human rights today requires that we infuse all our work with ways to reach new members of our communities, shape public debates in real time, and enlist the broader public as one of our most persuasive allies.

In the Netherlands, Human Rights Watch will welcome a new director as well as a new co-chair of the Netherlands Committee. Together with the Executive Subcommittee they will further develop the Netherlands Committee and subcommittee membership; expand the supporter base in the Netherlands; implement plans to make the 2019 Voices for Justice dinner and Human Rights Weekend even more successful; and create a three-year plan for the Netherlands office.

4.2 Budget 2018/2019

Multiple year budget

At this moment we are only able to present a budget one year ahead.

However, a new change in the internal budgeting process will allow us to provide a multiple year budget as of next fiscal year 2019/2020.

	Budget 2018/2019
INCOME	€
Revenue from individuals	461,915
Revenue from foundations & corporations	1,077,801
Revenue from legacies	-
Total Income	1,539,716
EXPENSES	
Contribution to objectives	
Protecting and defending human rights	124,600
Support the work of Human Rights Watch Inc.	650,000
Education, humanitarian, literary or scientific activities	1,000
Advocacy and Communication initiatives	128,035
	903,635
Fundraising	
Special events	122,600
Costs fundraising activities	278,735
	401,335
Management and administration	
Costs management and administration	73,635
	73,635
Total Expenses	1,378,605

Report to the management of
Stichting Human Rights Watch Nederland
Concerning
Financial Statements 2017/2018

5. FINANCIAL REPORT

5.1 AUDIT

In accordance with your instructions we have compiled the annual account 2017/2018 of the foundation, including the balance sheet with counts of € 1,434,176 and the profit and loss account with a positive result of € 140,403.

For the audit opinion, we refer to the chapter “Other information” on page 59 of this report.

5.2 GENERAL

5.2.1 Company

The promotion of domestic human rights including the elimination of the infringement of those rights and the promotion of effective remedies following any breach, for the benefit of the public by:

- (a) advancing education in human rights by teaching, producing materials or by conducting or commissioning research (and publishing the results);
- (b) raising public awareness and cultivating a sentiment on favour of human rights using publications, lectures, human rights awards, the media, public advocacy and other means of communication;
- (c) promoting the sound administration of domestic human rights law by conducting or commissioning research in domestic human rights and publishing the same to the public;
- (d) promoting the enforcement of domestic human rights law.

The promotion of international human rights for the benefit of the public by:

- (a) advancing education in human rights by teaching, producing materials or by conducting or commissioning research (and publishing the results),
- (b) raising public awareness and cultivating a sentiment in favour of human rights using publications, lectures, human rights awards, the media, public advocacy and other means of communication provided that this does not extend to promoting directly a change in the law or government policy or the administrative decisions of government authorities.

5.2.2 Board of Directors

On June 30, 2018, the members of the board are:

Mr. Chuck Lustig, Chair
Mr. Justin A.J.W. Nieuwenhuys, Secretary
Mrs. Michele A. Alexander
Ms. Aissata Bangoura, Treasurer

Mr. Frank L. Leijdesdorff (resigned per July 1, 2018)

Director*

Mrs. Tammy Parrish, Associate Director for Development & Global Initiatives

*The position of Senior Director was eliminated this fiscal year.

5.2.3 Comparative figures

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting guidelines for annual reporting 650 for fundraising institutions of the Dutch Standards on Auditing.

Change of accounting principle

The new regulation of the guideline for annual reporting 650 “Fundraising Organizations” of the Dutch Accounting Standards Board requires that bequests (with a usufruct clause) are valued in the financial statements as of the moment of declaration. This new regulation of the guideline for annual reporting is mandatory for the financial year starting on or after January 1, 2017.

Restatement figures 2016/2017

The change of accounting principle resulted in restating the financial figures of 2016/2017.

The restatement requires us to provide comparative information between fiscal year 2016/2017 and 2016/2018.

The impact of the restatement can be found on page 47.

5.2.4 ANBI-status

The Dutch Foundation has a so called ANBI-status. This means that since the foundation only serves objectives of general social benefit no gifts taxes are due and gifts to the foundation are tax deductible in the Netherlands.

5.2.5 Appropriation of the net result 2017/2018

The positive result for the year 2017/2018 amounts to € 140,403 compared to a negative result for the year 2016/2017 of - € 28,916. The analysis of the result is disclosed on page 44. The proposed appropriation of result is to add the sum to the reserves.

5.2.6 Appropriation of the net result 2016/2017

Board Meeting for the year 2016/2017 was on November 1, 2017

In accordance with the proposition from the Board of Directors, the appropriated negative result is approved by the Board Meeting for the year 2016/2017 on November 29, 2016. The negative result for the year 2016/2017 a sum amounting to - € 28,916 has been deducted from the other reserves.

5.3 FINANCIAL POSITION

The balance sheet can be summarized as follows:

	6/30/2018	6/30/2017
	€	€
Long term funds:		
Corporate capital	1,253,798	1,113,395
Long term investments:		
Tangible fixed assets	31,164	40,471
Working capital	<u>1,222,634</u>	<u>1,072,924</u>
 This amount is applied as follows:		
Receivables, prepayments and accrued income	832,155	756,312
Cash and cash equivalents	<u>570,857</u>	<u>425,795</u>
	1,403,012	1,182,108
 Debit: Short-term debt	180,379	109,184
Working capital	<u>1,222,634</u>	<u>1,072,924</u>

We will gladly provide further explanations upon request.

6. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

6.1 Balance Sheet as at June 30, 2018

For profit distribution

		06/30/2018		06/30/2017	
	Notes	€	€	€	€
ASSETS					
Fixed assets					
Tangible fixed assets	6.4.1		31,164		40,471
Current assets					
Receivables, prepayments and accrued income	6.4.2	832,155		756,312	
Cash and cash equivalents	6.4.3	<u>570,857</u>		<u>425,795</u>	
			1,403,012		1,182,108
			<u><u>1,434,176</u></u>		<u><u>1,222,579</u></u>
LIABILITIES					
Reserves					
Continuity reserve	6.4.4	375,395		404,311	
Earmarked reserves	6.4.6	738,000		738,000	
Result	6.4.5	<u>140,403</u>		<u>(28,916)</u>	
			1,253,798		1,113,395
Current liabilities	6.4.7		<u>180,379</u>		<u>109,184</u>
			<u><u>1,434,176</u></u>		<u><u>1,222,579</u></u>

6.2 Profit and Loss Account 2017/2018

		Balance 2017/2018	Budget 2017/2018	Balance 2016/2017	Budget 2016/2017
	Notes	€	€	€	€
INCOME					
Revenue from individuals	6.5.1	281,254	849,378	585,439	687,014
Revenue from foundations & corporations	6.5.2	1,168,741	593,012	1,367,763	866,469
Revenue from legacies	6.5.3	31,806	-	82,000	-
Total Income		1,481,802	1,442,390	2,035,202	1,553,483
EXPENSES					
Contribution to objectives					
Protecting and defending human rights	6.5.4	123,177	126,200	111,169	123,600
Support the work of Human Rights Watch Inc.	6.5.5	600,000	600,000	1,260,000	650,000
Education, humanitarian, literary or scientific activities	6.5.6	25,367	1,000	13,218	3,500
Advocacy and Communication initiatives	6.5.7	128,395	107,600	108,528	176,350
		876,938	834,800	1,492,915	953,450
Fundraising					
Special events	6.5.8	100,642	122,500	142,324	126,000
Costs fundraising activities		289,097	235,700	363,048	505,034
		389,739	358,200	505,372	631,034
Management and administration					
Costs management and administration	6.5.9	74,768	67,100	66,046	76,367
		74,768	67,100	66,046	76,367
Total Expenses		1,341,446	1,260,100	2,064,332	1,660,851
Result before financial income		140,356	182,290	(29,130)	(107,368)
Financial Income		47	-	214	1,032
Result		140,403	182,290	(28,916)	(106,337)

Signature of the financial accounts 2017/2018

Amsterdam,

Mr. Chuck Lustig

Mr. Justin A.J.W. Nieuwenhuys

Mrs. Michele A. Alexander

Ms. Aissata Bangoura

6.3 Notes to the statements

GENERAL

Estimates

In applying the principles and policies for drawing up the financial statements, the board of Stichting Human Right Watch Nederland make different estimates and judgments that may be essential to the amounts disclosed in the financial statements. If it is necessary in order to provide the transparency required under the Netherlands generally accepted accounting principles the nature of these estimates and judgments, including related assumptions, is disclosed in the Notes to the relevant financial statement item.

GENERAL ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLES FOR THE PREPARATION OF THE ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

The financial statements are drawn up in accordance with the Netherlands generally accepted accounting principles. Assets and liabilities are generally valued at historical cost, production cost or at fair value at the time of acquisition. If no specific valuation principle has been stated, valuation is at historical cost.

PRINCIPLES OF VALUATION OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

Tangible fixed assets

Other tangible fixed assets are valued at historical cost or production cost including directly attributable costs, less straight-line depreciation based on the expected future life and impairments.

Receivables

Receivables are initially valued at the fair value of the consideration to be received, including transaction costs if material. Receivables are subsequently valued at the amortized cost price. Provisions for bad debts are deducted from the carrying amount of the receivable.

The new accounting guidelines require to include additional pledges (contributions receivables) owed to us as of the closing of the fiscal years 2016/2017 and 2017/2018.

As the financial statements of 2017/2018 need to be shown in a comparative format we restated the figures of 2016/2017.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash at banks and in hand represent cash in hand, bank balances and deposits with terms of less than twelve months. Overdrafts at banks are recognized as part of debts to lending institutions under current liabilities. Cash at banks and in hand is valued at nominal value.

Long-term and short-term liabilities

On initial recognition long-term debts are recognized at fair value. Transaction costs which can be directly attributed to the acquisition of the long-term debts are included in the initial recognition. After initial recognition long-term debts are recognized at the amortized cost price, being the amount received taking into account premiums or discounts and minus transaction costs.

On initial recognition current liabilities are recognized at fair value. After initial recognition current liabilities are recognized at the amortized cost price, being the amount received taking into account premiums or discounts and minus transaction costs. This is usually the nominal value.

Restatement figures 2016/2017

The change of accounting principle resulted in restating the financial figures of 2016/2017.

The restatement requires us to provide comparative information between fiscal year 2016/2017 and 2016/2018.

The opening balances as per July 1, 2017 has been restated for an amount of € 354,700 and the comparative information for the year ended June 30, 2017 have been restated to disclose the impact on reserves, funds and result retrospectively.

The effect on the result of the year 2016/2017 and 2017/2018 is € 383,300 and € 70,000 respectively. The total impact on the balance for the year ending June 30, 2017 and June 30, 2018 is € 738,000 and € 808,000 respectively.

Reserves

The continuity reserve is held to be able to cover short-term risks and to ensure that HRW Netherlands can meet its future obligations.

The Board of HRW Netherlands decided on the minimal amount of equity that should remain in the foundation as a buffer for ongoing liabilities. At the board meeting it was decided to reserve 50% of the operating budget in our account. This minimum amount is indicated as continuity reserve in the financial statements.

PRINCIPLES FOR THE DETERMINATION OF THE RESULT

General

The result is the difference between the revenues and the costs and other charges during the year.

Costs

Costs are determined on a historical basis and are attributed to the reporting year to which they relate.

Employee benefits

Benefits to be paid periodically

The benefits payable to personnel are recorded in the profit and loss account on the basis of the employment conditions.

Amortization and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are amortized and depreciated from the date of when they are available for use, based on the estimated economic life / expected future useful life of the asset.

Financial income and expenses

Interest income and interest expenses

Interest income and expenses are recognized on a pro rata basis, taking account of the effective interest rate of the assets and liabilities to which, they relate. In accounting for interest expenses, the recognized transaction expenses for loans received are taken into consideration.

6.4 Notes to the balance sheet as at June 30, 2018

ASSETS

FIXED ASSETS

	06/30/2018	06/30/2017
	€	€
6.4.1 Tangible fixed assets		
Leasehold Improvements		
Office Equipment	7,252	14,443
Computer Hardware	(0)	1,904
Furniture & Fixtures	21,117	19,428
	2,794	4,696
	<u>31,164</u>	<u>40,471</u>

Depreciation rates	%
Leasehold Improvements	20
Office Equipment	20
Computer Hardware	20
Furniture & Fixtures	20

	Leasehold Improvement	Office Equipment	Computer Hardware	Furniture & Fixtures	Total
	€	€	€	€	€
Carrying amount as of July 1, 2017					
Purchase price	45,491	9,518	45,800	20,556	121,366
Cumulative depreciation and	(31,048)	(7,614)	(26,372)	(15,860)	(80,895)
	<u>14,443</u>	<u>1,904</u>	<u>19,428</u>	<u>4,696</u>	<u>40,471</u>
Movement					
Investments	2,335	-	10,664	-	12,999
Depreciation	(9,526)	(1,904)	(8,974)	(1,902)	(22,306)
	<u>(7,191)</u>	<u>(1,904)</u>	<u>1,689</u>	<u>(1,902)</u>	<u>(9,307)</u>
Carrying amount as of June 30, 2018	47,827	9,518	56,464	20,556	134,365
Purchase price	(40,575)	(9,518)	(35,346)	(17,762)	(103,201)
impairment	7,252	-	21,117	2,794	31,164
Carrying amount as of June 30, 2018					

CURRENT ASSETS

6.4.2 Receivables, prepayments and accrued income

Other receivables, deferred assets

Receivables, Prepayments and accrued income

Other Receivables

Due from other HRW inc.

Prepaid Expensens

Contributions Receivable

06/30/2018	06/30/2017
€	€
832,155	756,312
17,500	104
-	-
6,655	18,208
808,000	738,000
832,155	756,312
108,418	63,506
456,815	356,665
5,624	5,624
570,857	425,795

6.4.3 Cash and cash equivalents

Netherlands- Operations

Netherlands- Savings

Rent Guarantee*

* The rent guarantee, € 5,624, is not available for use until both parties agree to terminate the lease agreement.

RESERVES AND LIABILITIES

6.4.4 Continuity reserve*

Continuity reserve opening balance

Restatement change in accounting principle

Reclassification to earmarked reserve

Appropriation result 2016/2017

06/30/2018	06/30/2017
€	€
404,311	787,611
-	354,700
	(738,000)
(28,916)	
375,395	404,311

6.4.5 Unappropriated result

Balance as at June 30, 2017

Appropriation result 2016/2017

Result 2017/2018

Balance as at June 30, 2018

(28,916)
28,916
140,403
140,403

The board of directors proposed to appropriate the result as follows:

Add to earmarked reserves

Add to continuity reserve

70,000
70,403
140,403

6.4.6 Earmarked reserve

After appropriation of result

Turkey

Central Asia - Uzbekistan

Women's Rights

Children's Rights

Eastern Europe & Central Asia

LGBT

Multimedia

Protecting Civilians in Africa

06/30/2018	06/30/2017
€	€
15,000	35,000
198,000	279,000
350,000	75,000
50,000	75,000
75,000	100,000
80,000	100,000
40,000	-
-	74,000
808,000	738,000

	06/30/2018	06/30/2017
	€	€
6.4.7 Current liabilities		
Taxes and social securities	1,051	-
Other liabilities	16,156	5,417
Accruals and deferred income	163,172	103,766
	180,379	109,184
<i>Taxes and social securities</i>		
Payroll taxes payable	1,051	-
	1,051	-
<i>Other liabilities</i>		
Accrued Expenses	16,156	5,417
	16,156	5,417
<i>Accruals and deferred income</i>		
Accrued Vacation Payable	14,146	16,501
Accounts Payable. Foreign Offices	419	9,255
Accrued Redundancy	-	75,791
Accrued Salaries	3,272	2,220
Deferred income	145,335	
	163,172	103,766

Assets and liabilities not recognised in balance sheet.

Multiyear financial liabilities

There are two long-term rental commitments. One for the office lease and one for the copier.

6.5 Notes to the profit and loss account 2017/2018

	Balance 2017/2018	Balance 2016/2017
	€	€
INCOME		
6.5.1 Revenue from individuals	281,254	585,439
6.5.2 Revenue from foundations & corporations	1,168,741	1,367,763
6.5.3 Revenue from legacies	31,806	82,000
Total Income	1,481,802	2,035,202

EXPENSES

Contribution to objectives

6.5.4 Protecting and defending human rights

Operating costs

Employee expenses	107,356	104,450
Travel and representation costs	11,294	2,192
General Expenses	4,527	4,527
	123,177	111,169

6.5.5 Support the work of Human Rights Watch Inc.

Direct program costs

Contribution support activities HRW Inc.	600,000	1,260,000
	600,000	1,260,000

6.5.6 Education, humanitarian, literary or scientific activities

Operating costs

Special Events	9,638	9,426
Employee expenses	6,461	-
Office expenses	-	408
Travel and representation costs	9,268	3,385
	25,367	13,218

6.5.7 Advocacy and Communication initiatives

Operating costs

Employee expenses	103,958	81,429
Amortisation and depreciation	3,718	5,250
Accommodation expenses	9,777	13,541
Office expenses	2,525	2,741
Travel and representation costs	5,741	1,341
General expenses	2,499	3,925
Financial expenses	178	299
	128,395	108,528

	Balance 2017/2018	Balance 2016/2017
	€	€
6.5.8 Fundraising expenses		
<i>Operating costs</i>		
Special Events	100,642	142,324
Employee expenses	196,919	295,083
Amortisation and depreciation	14,871	12,251
Accommodation expenses	39,107	31,596
Office expenses	9,196	6,359
Travel and representation costs	19,543	7,878
General expenses	8,750	9,184
Financial expenses	711	698
	<u>389,739</u>	<u>505,372</u>

6.5.9 Management and administration

<i>Operating costs</i>		
Employee expenses	55,112	47,450
Amortisation and depreciation	3,718	3,500
Accommodation expenses	9,777	9,027
Office expenses	1,997	1,332
Travel and representation costs	1,800	1,920
General expenses	2,188	2,617
Financial expenses	178	199
	<u>74,768</u>	<u>66,046</u>

Explanation deviations profit & loss account

Revenue

Realised versus budgeted revenue 2017/2018

Looking at the type of revenue “individuals” or “foundations & corporations” there was a big difference between budgeted and realised revenue. This is caused by revenue reclassification adjustments throughout the year.

This reclassification of revenue did not have an impact on the total budgeted revenue compared to the realised revenue for 2017/2018.

Realised revenue 2017/2018 versus realised revenue 2016/2017

In 2017/2018 there was a decrease of revenue. This decrease is caused by the change of accounting principle which resulted in restating the financial figures of 2016/2017. The effect on the revenue of the year 2016/2017 is an increased revenue of € 383,300. In 2016/2017 the foundation received a one-time legacy of € 82,000.

Contribution of objectives

Support the work of Human Rights Watch Inc.

To support the work of HRW Inc., HRW Inc., makes grant requests annually after the board meeting, once the fund balance is confirmed. Each grant request will be accompanied by a detailed grant proposal including budgeting to ensure approved funds are used for the purpose of the grant. No funds will be transferred prior to majority board approval and full expense details of approved grants will be shared in the subsequent annual board meeting to mitigate the risk of grants being misspent.

Education, humanitarian, literary or scientific activities

Expenses for this objective are related to the Human Rights Weekend, the annual outreach event that takes place in January/February. Expenses related to this event are covered by a sponsor. The budget process for this event is different from other expenses. Once it's known how much the sponsor contribution then a budget is made.

This budget is not included in the annual budget. The small portion of the annual budget is for unforeseen costs.

The increase of costs in 2017/2018 compared to 2016/2017 is mainly caused by an increase of travelling expenses of international guest participating in one of the event programs. Another cause was the recruitment of a temporarily assistant. All the extra expenses were made possible by a sponsor.

Advocacy and communication initiatives

The increase of expenses in 2017/2018 compared to 2016/2017 is caused by an increase in employee expenses and travel expenses.

Fundraising

Special events

Most costs in this category are related to the annual fundraising dinner taking place in November.

The special events expenses in 2017/2018 decreased compared to 2016/2017.

In 2017/2018 a different and cheaper venue was chosen to hold the annual fundraising event.

Cost fundraising activities

In 2017/2018 there was a decrease in fundraising activities expenses compared to 2016/2017.

This difference can be explained by the elimination of the position of Senior Director this fiscal year.

Management and administration

The increase of expenses in 2017/2018 compared to 2016/2018 can be explained by a promotion that was effective starting 2017/2018.

6.6 Expenses Specification overview

Expenses Specification Overview 2017/2018

		Contributed to objectives				Notes							
Protecting and defending human rights	Support the work of Human Rights Watch Inc.	Education, humanitarian, literary or scientific activities	Advocacy & Communication initiatives	Fundraising	Management and administration								
6.5.4	6.5.5	6.5.6	6.5.7	6.5.8	6.5.9								
€	€	€	€	€	€								
-	600,000	-	-	-	-					600,000		600,000	
Operating costs													
Employee expenses	6.6.1	107,356	-	6,461	103,958			196,919	55,112	469,806		426,300	
Special Events	6.6.2	-	-	9,638	-			100,642	-	110,280		122,500	
Amortisation and depreciation	6.6.3	-	-	-	3,718			14,871	3,718	22,306			
Accommodation expenses	6.6.4	-	-	-	9,777			39,107	9,777	58,660		60,200	
Office expenses	6.6.5	-	-	-	2,525			9,196	1,997	13,718		5,600	
Travel and representation costs	6.6.6	11,294	-	9,268	5,741			19,543	1,800	47,646		29,600	
General expenses	6.6.7	4,527	-	-	2,499			8,750	2,188	17,963		14,700	
Financial expenses	6.6.8	-	-	-	178			711	178	1,067		1,200	
Total		123,177	600,000	25,367	128,395			389,739	74,768	1,341,446		1,260,100	

Total expense ratios 2017/2018

Expenditure per category

Protecting and defending human rights	9%
Support the work of HRW Inc.	45%
Education, humanitarian, literary or scientific activities	2%
Advocacy & Communication initiatives	10%
Fundraising	29%
Management and administration	6%
Total	100%

Expenses Specification Overview 2016/2017

		Contributed to objectives				Fundraising	Management and administration	Actual 2016/2017
		Protecting and defending human rights	Support the work of Human Rights Watch Inc.	Education, humanitarian, literary or scientific activities	Advocacy & Communication initiatives			
Notes		6.5.4	6.5.5	6.5.6	6.5.7			
		€	€	€	€			
Direct program costs								
Contribution support activities HRW Inc.		-	1,260,000	-	-		-	1,260,000
Operating costs								
Employee expenses	6.6.1	104,450	-	-	81,429	295,083	47,450	528,412
Special Events	6.6.2		-	9,426	-	142,324	-	151,749
Amortisation and depreciation	6.6.3	-	-	-	5,250	12,251	3,500	21,001
Accomodation expenses	6.6.4	-	-	-	13,541	31,596	9,027	54,164
Office expenses	6.6.5	-	-	408	2,741	6,359	1,332	10,840
Travel and representation costs	6.6.6	2,192	-	3,385	1,341	7,878	1,920	16,717
General expenses	6.6.7	4,527	-	-	3,925	9,184	2,617	20,253
Financial expenses	6.6.8	-	-	-	299	698	199	1,196
Total		111,169	1,260,000	13,218	108,528	505,372	66,046	2,064,332

Total expense ratios 2016/2017

Expenditure per category

Protecting and defending human rights	5%
Support the work of HRW Inc.	61%
Education, humanitarian, literary or scientific activities	1%
Advocacy/ communication initiatives	5%
Fundraising	24%
Management and administration	3%
Total	100%

Additional information expenses specification overview

See Chapter 6.6 Expenses Specification Overview for totals operating costs.

6.6.1 Employee expenses

	Balance 2017/2018	Balance 2016/2017
	€	€
Wages and salaries	364,951	439,114
Social security charges	76,245	60,606
Retirement Savings	28,610	28,693
	<u>469,806</u>	<u>528,412</u>
<i>Wages and salaries</i>		
Salaries	357,771	434,643
Intern Reimbursement	2,155	2,491
Temporary Hire	5,025	1,670
Temp Hire Tax/Benefit	-	310
	<u>364,951</u>	<u>439,114</u>
<i>Social security charges</i>		
Employer Tax	59,762	50,988
Temp Hire Tax/Benefit	1,044	-
Health Insurance/Wellness	15,439	9,618
	<u>76,245</u>	<u>60,606</u>
<i>Retirement Savings</i>		
Retirement Savings	28,610	28,693
	<u>28,610</u>	<u>28,693</u>

Staff at partnership during 2017/2018, on average 7 employees were employed, converted to fulltime equivalents (2016/2017: 7).

6.6.2 Special Events

	Balance 2017/2018	Balance 2016/2017
	€	€
Venue/ Facilities	11,511	41,390
Program Production	5	2,236
Postage & Delivery	1,952	2,230
Printing	2,937	1,403
Signage & Supplies	1,411	674
Catering	47,876	40,302
Videog./Photography	1,698	1,750
Events Consultant	12,511	11,540
Technology	15,606	40,566
Decor	8,663	1,556
Graphic Design	5,964	5,109
Incidentals	145	404
Music	-	350
Publicity	-	2,239
	<u>110,280</u>	<u>151,749</u>

6.6.3 Amortisation and depreciation

Depreciation of tangible fixed assets

	Balance 2017/2018 €	Balance 2016/2017 €
Leasehold Improvements	9,526	8,490
Office Equipment	1,904	1,904
Computer Hardware	8,974	8,774
Furniture & Fixtures	1,902	1,833
	<u>22,306</u>	<u>21,001</u>

Other operating expenses

6.6.4 Accommodation expenses	58,660	54,164
6.6.5 Office expenses	13,718	10,840
6.6.6 Travel and representation costs	47,646	16,717
6.6.7 General expenses	17,963	20,253
6.6.8 Financial expenses	1,067	1,196
	<u>139,054</u>	<u>103,170</u>

6.6.4 Accommodation expenses

Rent	40,231	39,878
Operating Tax incr.	11	(136)
Utilities	11,150	5,929
Cleaning	3,500	3,438
Kitchen Supplies	280	450
Equip./Furn.Maint.	3,488	4,605
	<u>58,660</u>	<u>54,164</u>

6.6.5 Office expenses

Office Supplies	1,028	2,426
Computer Supply & Maintenance	194	1,074
Internet	5,682	512
Office telephone	4,525	3,598
Subscriptions	1,643	1,227
Online Services	113	753
Books Purchased	301	50
Photocopy	194	301
Postage & Delivery	37	156
Translations	-	743
	<u>13,718</u>	<u>10,840</u>

	Balance 2017/2018 €	Balance 2016/2017 €
6.6.6 Travel and representation expenses		
Travel: Airfare	6,265	1,781
Travel: Telecommunications	917	809
Travel: Ground transport	3,416	1,915
Travel: Meals	1,199	892
Travel: Meetings- Meals	471	12
Travel: Meetings- Venues	70	459
Travel: Incidentals	(21)	(3)
Travel: Lodging	6,604	6,360
Travel: Delivery (non-publicity)	70	35
Travel: Document Fees	72	-
Travel:Travel: Fixers	10,667	-
Travel: Agent Fees	12,400	-
Pubs: InHouse Printing	35	-
Marketing: Postage	166	-
Marketing: Printing	783	-
Marketing: Consulting Fees	1,180	-
Staff Enrichment: Staff Gifts	369	543
Staff Enrichment: Staff Parties	425	315
Staff Enrichment: Tuition Reimbursement	1,992	1,885
Staff Enrichment: Seminars	291	307
Staff Enrichment: Occasion Meals	278	-
Publications	-	812
Staff Enrichment: Meals at Mtgs	-	594
	<u>47,646</u>	<u>16,717</u>
6.6.7 General expenses		
Professional fees: Audit	11,123	6,793
Professional fees: Accounting	437	395
Professional fees: Other	13	7,350
Professional fees: Payroll/ Benefice Service	-	340
Insurance: Special	1,552	848
Home Office	4,838	4,527
	<u>17,963</u>	<u>20,253</u>
6.6.8 Financial expenses		
Business fees: Bank Charges	1,043	1,137
Business fees: CC Processing fees	23	60
	<u>1,067</u>	<u>1,196</u>

OTHER INFORMATION

Independent auditor's report

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To: The Board of Directors of Stichting Human Rights Watch.

A. Report on the audit of the financial statements for the year ended June 30, 2018**Our opinion**

We have audited the financial statements for the year ended June 30, 2018 of Stichting Human Rights Watch, based in Den Haag.

In our opinion the accompanying financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of Stichting Human Rights Watch as at June 30 2018, and of its result for the year than ended in accordance with Guideline for annual reporting 650 "fundraising organisations" (RJ 650) of the Dutch Accounting Standards Board.

The financial statements comprise:

4. the balance sheet as at June 30, 2018;
5. the profit and loss account for the year ended June 30, 2018 and;
6. the notes comprising a summary of the significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Basis for our opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Dutch law, including the Dutch Standards on Auditing. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the 'Our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements' section of our report.

We are independent of Stichting Human Rights Watch, and her group companies in accordance with the Verordening inzake de onafhankelijkheid van accountants bij assurance-opdrachten (ViO, Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants, a regulation with respect to independence) and other relevant independence regulations in the Netherlands. Furthermore we have complied with the Verordening gedrags- en beroepsregels accountants (VGBA, Dutch Code of Ethics).

We believe the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

B. Report on the other information included in the annual report

In addition to the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon, the annual report contains other information that consists of:

- The directors' report;

Based on the following procedures performed, we conclude that the other information:

- is consistent with the financial statements and does not contain material misstatements;
- contains the information as required by RJ 650.

We have read the other information. Based on our knowledge and understanding obtained through our audit of the financial statements or otherwise, we have considered whether the other information contains material misstatements.

By performing these procedures, we comply with the requirements of RJ 650 of the Dutch Accounting Standards Board and the Dutch Standard 720. The scope of the procedures performed is substantially than the scope of those performed in our audit of the financial statements.

THE POWER OF BEING UNDERSTOOD

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The board of directors is responsible for the preparation of the other information, including the Directors report in accordance with RJ 650.

C. Description of responsibilities regarding the financial statements

Responsibilities of the Board of directors for the financial statements

The Board of directors is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with RJ 650.. Furthermore, the board of directors is responsible for such internal control as the board of directors determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

As part of the preparation of the financial statements, the board of directors is responsible for assessing the company's ability to continue as a going concern. Based on the financial reporting frameworks mentioned, the board of directors should prepare the financial statements using the going concern basis of accounting unless the board of directors either intends to liquidate the company or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so. The board of directors should disclose events and circumstances that may cast significant doubt on the company's ability to continue as a going concern in the financial statements.

Our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objective is to plan and perform the audit assignment in a manner that allows us to obtain sufficient and appropriate audit evidence for our opinion.

Our audit has been performed with a high, but not absolute, level of assurance, which means we may not detect all material errors and fraud during our audit.

Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements. The materiality affects the nature, timing and extent of our audit procedures and the evaluation of the effect of identified misstatements on our opinion.

We have exercised professional judgement and have maintained professional scepticism throughout the audit, in accordance with Dutch Standards on Auditing, ethical requirements and independence requirements. Our audit included e.g.:

- Identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, designing and performing audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtaining audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control;
- Obtaining an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the company's internal control;
- Evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the board of directors;
- Concluding on the appropriateness of the board of directors's use of the going concern basis of accounting, and based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the company's ability to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluating the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures; and
- Evaluating whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the board of directors regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant findings in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Amsterdam, February 15, 2018

RSM Netherlands Accountants N.V.

W.G. drs. W.J.O. Castricum RA