

# 18

## ANNUAL REPORT



The dramatic deterioration of the human rights situation, as well as the economic and political crisis in Venezuela, has led to millions of Venezuelans fleeing the country. The border bridge Puente Internacional Simón Bolívar, between Colombia and Venezuela.

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A close-up portrait of Anders L. Pettersson, a man with short brown hair and a light beard, looking directly at the camera with a neutral expression. He is wearing a blue blazer over a light blue shirt. The background is dark and out of focus, with some blurred lights.

# FOREWORD

**Every day, human rights defenders all over the world are fighting for our human rights. They aren't doing it alone. Thanks to your support, together we can be part of the struggle for a fairer world.**

Civil Rights Defenders' work has never been more important than now. Repressive regimes are increasingly using brutal methods to quell human rights defenders' fight for the civil and political rights that belong to us all. Whether by banning individual organisations, imprisoning representatives, destroying assembly halls and offices, or persecuting sympathisers, the resistance against human rights stops at nothing.

In this struggle, Civil Rights Defenders stands strong. Our organisation is expanding, our collaborations grows stronger, we have new methods for securing evidence of abuse, and more participants in our security programme the Natalia Project. When we help local human rights defenders in their fight for human rights, we are taking further steps toward our vision of a world of democratic societies in which we all enjoy civil and political rights.

As for many of our partners, Civil Rights Defenders' work faces resistance. We are affected by states who seek to increase control. Through repressive laws, bureaucratic rule and at times direct attacks on human rights defenders and the premises of associations, the space for civil society and its efforts is shrinking. The ability to act in the open is curtailed or made impossible and our human rights defenders are forced to operate under the radar, often at their own peril, risking the lives of the close ones. Increasing, and with our help, our partners together with their families seek refuge in safe places in order to continue their important work.

With such strong resistance, it is easy to feel resignation but with a common effort, we are able to strengthen the resilience of civil society. We are proud of the work that we do to help and support our human rights

defenders. We conduct training and organise one of the world's largest human rights conferences, Defenders' Days, which gathered more than 200 human rights defenders from all over the world in 2018. For the participants, the opportunity to meet other human rights defenders and exchange experiences is very valuable and energises them for a long time. We are inspired by each other's courage and strength.

Courage and power also characterise the winner of the 2018 Civil Rights Defender of the Year Award, Murat Çelikkan. He received the award for his fight for human rights and freedom of the press in Turkey. Through his commitment, which has laid the foundation for several prominent human rights organisations, Murat Çelikkan is a symbol of justice and a role model for other human rights defenders.

This year, we also launched our digital database, Defenders' Database – a powerful tool for collecting, reporting, and storing important evidence of human rights violations. By uploading files, reports, and evidence, we facilitate the work of human rights defenders and counteract those states that would prefer to see this evidence destroyed.

Without your support, our fight for human rights and freedoms would not have been possible. Together, we have created forums for knowledge, secured access to evidence, shone a spotlight on human rights role models, and stood up to repressive states. Our work has never been more important than now

**Anders L. Pettersson**  
Executive Director



The monument and memorial at Nása Mountain. Mining poses a threat to reindeer herding and other aspects of Sámi culture at Nása Mountain. International law requires the state to address equal terms of negotiation for indigenous peoples and companies or the state itself.

# CIVIL RIGHTS DEFENDERS 2018 —THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Civil Rights Defenders is an international human rights organisation that is politically and religiously independent. The organisation defends people's civil and political rights and empowers human rights defenders at risk. Civil Rights Defenders operates in Sweden and globally, in the countries where respect for human rights is at its weakest. We engage in advocacy activities and legal processes, and provide information on the situation with regard to human rights globally.

During 2018, Civil Rights Defenders has continued its work to support human rights defenders in Latin America, Asia, Africa, Eurasia, and Europe. In all of these regions, we maintain a long-term perspective in our work and a presence on-site. We work with more than 200 human rights organisations, which gives

us extensive regional expertise. Our presence in the field means that we can support local human rights defenders through training and capacity development, and engage in advocacy work with them. Thanks to the organisation's extensive network, human rights defenders are able to share their experiences and learn from each other. Through op-eds, reports, and seminars, we are putting the current situation on the public agenda, as well as the political.

As an organisation, in the past year we have taken strategic steps toward an increased local presence and strengthened our internal structure and work processes. In this way, we have reinforced our position as a global human rights organisation that contributes to greater respect for human rights the world over.

# 200

Civil Rights Defenders collaborates with more than 200 local human rights organisations globally.

# 127

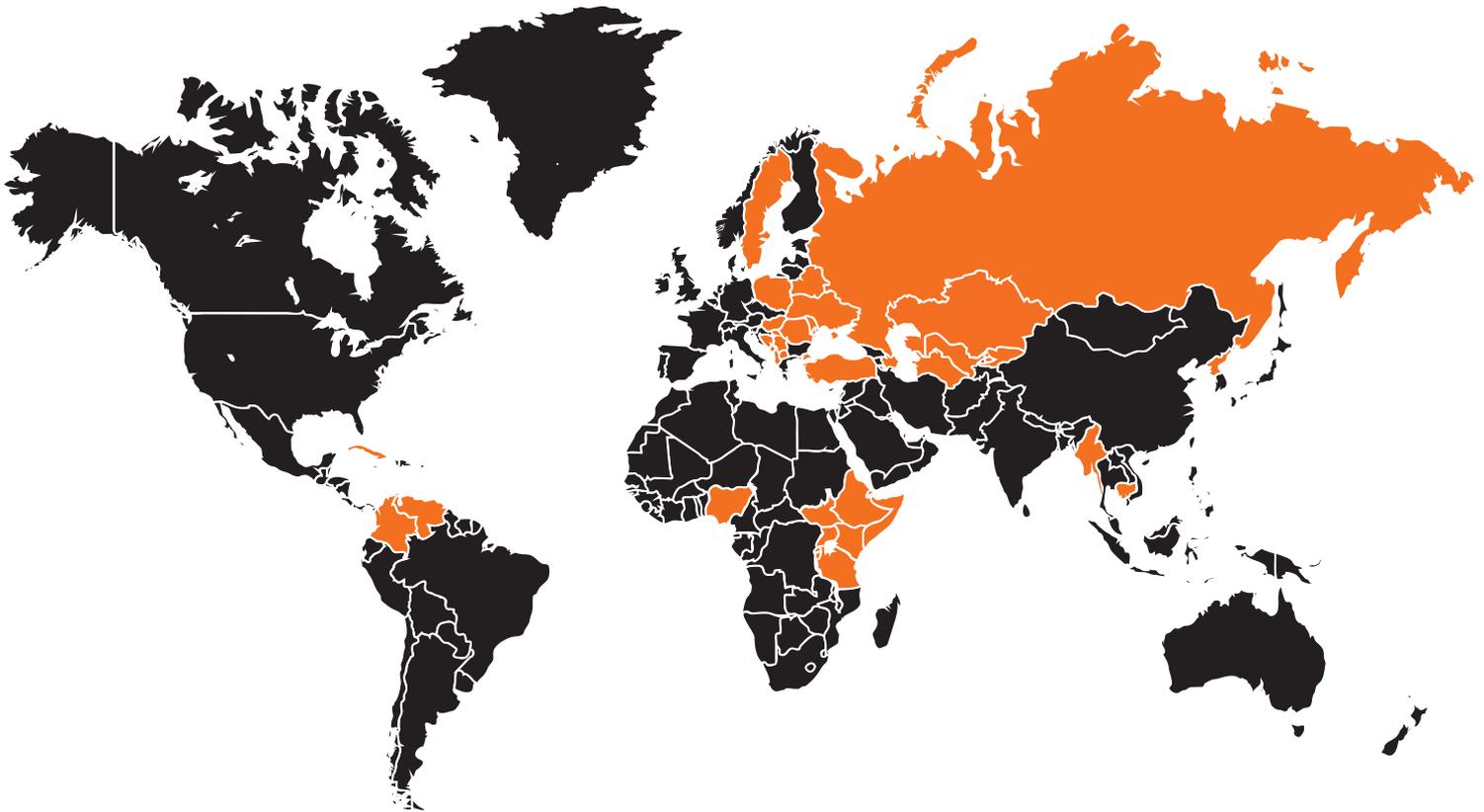
people from 18 countries received support through Civil Rights Defenders' Emergency Fund.

# 300

In 2018, nearly 300 human rights defenders received training in areas such as security through Civil Rights Defenders' Mobile Training Center.

# 165

By the end of 2018, 165 participants were part of the Natalia Project – the world's first alarm and positioning system for human rights defenders at risk.



# CIVIL RIGHTS DEFENDERS ON FOUR CONTINENTS

## SWEDEN

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In Sweden, Civil Rights Defenders works with issues such as hate crime, discrimination, and minority rights. We also monitor respect for human rights in the country's closed institutions. In 2018, we focused on the rights of people who experience psychosocial disabilities. We have worked to ensure that the police has adequate training to manage and respond to people with psychosocial disabilities, without the use of unnecessary violence. Among other things, we launched a handbook on patients' rights in compulsory forensic and psychiatric care. The handbook is meant to be used by institutions, by individuals who are in contact with psychiatric care, as well as by patients and their relatives.

With concern, we have seen a societal development in which threats and hatred are on the increase. The presence of right-wing populist and xenophobic organisations and parties has grown stronger, which

has led politicians, opinion makers, minority groups, and others to feel threatened. Civil Rights Defenders has worked to ensure that the rhetoric that neo-Nazi organisations are directing at vulnerable groups is prosecuted as hate speech. In 2017, Civil Rights Defenders reported a number of prominent leaders within the Nordic Resistance Movement (NMR) to the police for their actions during the demonstrations in Gothenburg. During the autumn of 2018, this resulted in an indictment against Nazi representatives.

During the second half of 2018, we focused on Sámi rights. Together with Sámi representatives, we have worked to shape public opinion and engaged in advocacy efforts to increase the respect for their rights as an indigenous people.

We have also shone a spotlight on the controversial court order that allows Vellinge municipality to ban begging. Civil Rights Defenders has previously argued against such decisions and is now taking further action to ensure that the administrative court reviews the

ban on begging in relation to Sweden's international commitments on human rights.

Our active advocacy efforts aimed at international institutions, such as the UN Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD), have resulted in sharp criticism of the Swedish government for the way it deals with indigenous rights and racial profiling in the country.

## LATIN AMERICA

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2018 was a transformative year in the Latin American countries where we operate. The Cuban government put forth a proposal for a new constitution which, despite new language, builds the same state as before – a constitution that neither offers greater guarantees for respect for human rights nor space for the expansion of democracy. The new constitution is to be approved by referendum in 2019.

Together with our Cuban partners, we have engaged in advocacy efforts to ensure that the political dialogue and cooperation agreement between the EU and Cuba is not approved until the Cuban government has taken clear steps toward democracy and respect for human rights. Among other things, we have facilitated a number of meetings between Cuban human rights defenders and decision makers at the international level. We have also trained more than 40 Cuban human rights defenders, which has resulted in public activities around democracy, human rights, and freedom of expression, as well as a mobilisation against gender-based violence.

In Venezuela, the democratic situation has deteriorated during the year. Civil Rights Defenders has stayed in close contact with a number of human rights organisations, and several of them participated in the Defenders' Days conference in Stockholm. In addition to this, we also offered security training for nine Venezuelan human rights defenders.

## EURASIA

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In Russia, the general attitude toward LGBTI+ people is still negative, but our work in Eurasia has pointed to significant progress. In 2018, Queerfest was organised without any major pressures from Russian authorities

and with a record number of visitors. Civil Rights Defenders has supported Queerfest since 2009, when the event was organised for the first time. From being a small and relatively unknown event, the festival has grown and gathered more than 2,000 local and international activists this year.

In Chechnya, however, the persecution of LGBTI+ people continued and resulted in mass arrests, after which two people were reported to have died as a result of torture. Our and our partner organisations' work to shine a spotlight on these atrocities internationally led the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) to start an investigation into these events. In 2018, Chechnya received sharp criticism from the UN Committee Against Torture. Our partner organisation, Russia's Committee Against Torture, played a key role in bringing about a discussion on improving the country's torture laws. At the same time, the regime intensified its persecution of human rights organisations in the country. This year, Oyub Titiev, head of the human rights organisation Memorial's operations in Chechnya, was arrested on false grounds. The trial began in July and has been marked by irregularities. Civil Rights Defenders has worked throughout the year to have him freed. Attacks on our partner organisation Memorial have also occurred in Ingushetia and Dagestan.



The human rights organisation Memorial's offices in Nazran, Ingushetia, after an arson attack in January 2018.

## EUROPE

2018 was an exciting year for Civil Rights Defenders' presence in Europe. With our new offices in Brussels, we have increased our opportunities to interact with EU institutions and to influence the work on human rights within the EU. Among other things, we have facilitated a large number of meetings between MEPs and our partner organisations, and contributed to the writing of the European Commission and European Parliament country reports on the Western Balkans and Turkey.

Our operations and partners in Bosnia and Herzegovina have faced several challenges, including a controversial presidential election that was marked by hate speech and threats to local human rights organisations. Our partners worked actively to support journalists in their work and contributed to the prosecution of the hate crimes that occurred. Civil Rights Defenders also released a report on freedom of assembly in the region.

In Kosovo, the fourth Balkan Roma Summit was organised, with over 120 Roma activists and human rights organisations from across Europe, thus helping to put pressure on authorities in the region to take action against deep-rooted discrimination against Roma in the Western Balkans. Civil Rights Defenders

also organised the annual Rule of Law Forum in North Macedonia, which was opened by the country's prime minister.

A major victory was seen in Serbia, with the first ever court ruling in a hate crime case since the law came into force in 2012. In August, the Pride Info Center was reopened in Belgrade, now as a permanent institution that, in addition to playing a central role during Pride, may also serve as a gathering place for LGBTI+ people in Serbia all year round.

Our partners in Albania organised a successful Gay (P)Ride with 250 participants. Two legislative proposals that have long been the focus of our advocacy efforts were brought up for discussion in parliament: the new laws on access to legal aid and social housing, that is, subsidised rented accommodation for low-income households.

In Turkey, the situation for civil society has deteriorated. The people who nevertheless continue to work to ensure respect for human rights are monitored and subjected to threats, harassment and smear campaigns, or are imprisoned for their work. One example is the prominent human rights defender Osman Kavala, who has been imprisoned without trial for over a year. Civil Rights Defenders has been present on-site, offering support to human rights organisations and helping to create networks for local human rights defenders.



Forty of Civil Rights Defenders' partners from Russia, Belarus, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, Montenegro, Kosovo, Serbia, and Turkey participated in Europride in Stockholm. Because of their work for LGBTI+ rights, many live under constant threat and are persecuted in their home countries.

## ASIA

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Our partners in Asia have faced many challenges during the year, as the human rights situation in the region has deteriorated. In Cambodia, a rigged election was staged after the only real opposition party had been dissolved and its leaders either exiled or arrested. The independent media has been gagged and the dictator Hun Sen stops at nothing to cling to power after more than three decades as prime minister. Our partners have continued their work to draw attention to those imprisoned on unjust grounds, which contributed to the release of Cambodia's most renowned human rights defender, the land rights activist Tep Vanny, after two years in jail.



Kachin Youth Movement, Burma

Even though the situation in Burma has worsened, our partner organisations won a great victory when it was established that the International Criminal Court (ICC) has jurisdiction over the expulsion of Rohingya by the Burmese state. In connection with the country-wide demonstrations against Burmese military action in the Kachin region, Civil Rights Defenders organised a larger event to bring together Burmese protest leaders with ambassadors in Rangoon. We also conducted training for some 20 partner organisations in the region within areas such as financial management, gender and advocacy. In addition, we organised a large number of meetings between partner organisations, politicians, and state representatives in the EU and Sweden, and made sure that the situation in the region was covered in both international and Swedish press.

## AFRICA

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On the African continent, one of the predominant events of the year was the positive development in Ethiopia. A change of prime minister and the initiation of reforms offer hope for democracy and respect for human rights, both in Ethiopia and on the continent as a whole. All of the country's political prisoners were released during the year and those in exile were welcomed back through overall amnesties.

Civil Rights Defenders has supported human rights defenders in Ethiopia continuously for the last few repressive years. When the situation suddenly took a positive turn in 2018, Civil Rights Defenders was therefore well placed to carry out sought after trainings in security and on the fundamental principles of human rights – for established as well as emerging human rights activists.

While the development in Ethiopia was surprisingly positive in 2018, the human rights situation in other countries has deteriorated instead. In Kenya, legislation that imposes restrictions on civil society has been proposed and many human rights actors speak of an increase in threats and violence. In Uganda, political turmoil erupted during the summer and autumn. The military stepped in and human rights abuses – mainly against journalists and politicians from the opposition – such as aggravated assault, imprisonment, and allegations of torture have increased.

A relatively stabilised situation in parts of Somalia has slightly increased the space for civil society during the year. At the same time, both the government and militant groups continue to subject human rights defenders to harassment, violence, imprisonment, and disappearances.

During 2018, Tanzania has continued to see a very negative development for human rights. Politicians in the opposition are imprisoned; journalists and lawyers are harassed and intimidated. The freedom of the media has been severely curtailed and LGBTI+ organisations and individuals have been persecuted and imprisoned.

In 2018, Civil Rights Defenders has initiated increased collaborations with human rights actors in South Sudan. The human rights situation in the country is very severe, with weak judicial institutions and a complete lack of a political leadership, without any ambition to protect the human rights of its population.

# TRAINING, DIGITAL SECURITY, AND INNOVATION

## DEFENDERS' DATABASE

The Defenders' Database, which was first launched in Cuba, helps human rights organisations to digitally document and secure evidence of human rights violations – evidence that can be used in future litigation. During the year, the Defenders' Database was also introduced in Kenya and Uganda in collaboration with the National Coalition of Human Rights Defenders Uganda and Kenya.



## NATALIA PROJECT

During the year, work has continued on the Natalia Project, the world's first alarm and positioning system for human rights defenders at risk. Since launching in 2013, the Natalia Project has grown steadily. In 2018, 39 individuals have been equipped with and trained in using the alarm. Today, the project includes more than 165 participants from different parts of the world. One of the people who joined the Natalia Project in 2018 was Uganda's most prominent defender of LGBTI+ rights, Frank Mugisha.

## EMERGENCY FUND

Through Civil Rights Defenders' Emergency Fund, we support human rights defenders at risk who need help quickly. We are, for example, able to offer access to legal aid in case of arrest or help to leave the country. During 2018, we supported a total of 127 human rights defenders from 18 countries. The feedback from those who have received assistance through the Emergency Fund is very positive. 98 per cent of recipients continue their human rights work after the intervention has been completed.

## MOBILE TRAINING CENTER

It has never been safe to stand up for and defend human rights. In recent years, being a human rights defender has become even more dangerous. Their email accounts are hacked, workplaces are broken into, security services bring them in for interrogation – the list of the risks that human rights defenders are exposed to in their work is long. Since 2012, Civil Rights Defenders offers training to counteract this through the Mobile Training Center. During the programme's sixth year running, we supported close to 300 human rights defenders and trained 28 security educators. Training in security is in greatest demand. During 2018 we also offered courses on psychosocial aspects of security, a growing concern among human rights defenders.

## INNOVATION CHALLENGE

Civil Rights Defenders promotes human rights in different ways. In addition to training, security solutions, public opinion shaping, and advocacy, we are constantly trying to develop new ways of promoting human rights work. Through the annual Innovation Challenge, we invite people from all over the world to present digital concepts that can contribute to the safety of the world's human rights defenders and increase their chances to succeed in their work. In 2018, the prize was shared between four teams. One team presented a concept that makes data available for the documentation of human rights violations, and another team made a podcast about digital rights and gender equality online.

## RIGHT AGENDA ACCELERATOR

During the year, we also received funding to start the world's first human rights incubator together with Linköping University – the Right Agenda Accelerator. In the coming years, students at Linköping University will develop new innovative and sustainable solutions to various challenges that human rights defenders face in their everyday lives. Students will have the opportunity to develop their concepts together with mentors from the university and Civil Rights Defenders.



Murat Çelikkan – this year's recipient of the Civil Rights Defender of the Year Award.

## DEFENDERS' DAYS AND CIVIL RIGHTS DEFENDER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Every other year, Civil Rights Defenders organises one of the world's largest human rights conferences, Defenders' Days, in Stockholm. In 2018, more than 200 human rights defenders from five different continents participated. The conference offered seminars in a number of different areas and panel discussions with invited guests and experts. Sessions concerning cyber security and innovation as tools in the fight for human rights were particularly popular. The conference enables networking and knowledge sharing between people who, despite the risk to their own lives, choose to carry on the fight for human rights every day.

On the last day, the Turkish journalist Murat Çelikkan was announced as this year's recipient of the Civil Rights Defender of the Year Award. Murat Çelikkan has laid the foundation for several prominent

human rights organisations and is today one of the directors of Hafıza Merkezi (the Truth Justice Memory Center). In his role as a journalist and human rights defender, he represents one of Turkey's strongest voices in the fight for respect for human rights in the country.



# INCREASED FOCUS ON FUNDRAISING

Resources are crucial for us to be able to carry out our work for and with human rights defenders. The world is increasingly putting great demands on us to act quickly and provide flexible support when emergencies arise or when the security situation deteriorates for those standing up for human rights. Support from private individuals, businesses, and organisations is essential to ensure this flexibility and our ability to target actions where there is greatest need.

In 2017, we initiated a long-term effort to increase the funds raised from this group. We can see from the results in 2018 that we are moving in the right direction. The funds raised from private individuals has

increased by 8.8 per cent and the number of monthly donors has increased by 10.4 per cent. More and more companies are supporting our work. The basic support from the Swedish Postcode Lottery makes it one of our most important private funders.

During the year, a long-term collaboration with the Swedish Football Association (SvFF) was initiated, through which resources, training, and joint positions to draw attention to human rights had a major impact during the World Cup in Russia in particular. It remains our focus to engage more individuals, organisations, and companies to take a stand for and support our work.



During the World Cup in Russia, the Swedish Football Association (SvFF) met representatives from Russian human rights organisations to learn more about and shine a light on human rights before, during, and after a world cup: Anna Dobrovolskaya, Executive Director of the Russian human rights organisation Memorial, and Albert Kuznetsov, a lawyer from the Committee against Torture, Håkan Sjöstrand, Secretary General of SvFF, and Anders L. Pettersson, Executive Director of Civil Rights Defenders.

# ANNUAL REPORT

**Organisation ID no. 802011-1442**

**The Board of Directors and Executive Director of Civil Rights Defenders hereby present the annual report for the 2018 financial year.**

## MANAGEMENT REPORT

### GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE ORGANISATION'S ACTIVITIES

Civil Rights Defenders is an international human rights organisation that is politically and religiously independent. The organisation defends people's civil and political rights and empowers human rights defenders at risk. Civil Rights Defenders maintains a main office in Sweden and operates in the countries in the world where respect for human rights is at its weakest. Civil Rights Defenders engages in advocacy activities, legal processes, and provides information on the situation with regard to human rights globally.

Registered office: Stockholm, Sweden

### VISION AND MISSION

For many years, Civil Rights Defenders' vision has been 'a peaceful and safe world with freedom and justice for all.' In light of the external developments that have been unfolding for a longer period of time, the board decided on a new formulation of the organisation's vision and mission in December 2018:

#### Civil Rights Defenders' Vision

A world of democratic societies in which we all enjoy civil and political rights.

#### Civil Rights Defenders' Mission

Our mission is to defend civil and political rights together with local human rights defenders in order to increase their safety, capacity, and access to justice.

We are part of a global movement of human rights defenders and work together with those at risk. Through legal processes and advocacy efforts, we hold states, individuals, and non-state actors to account for human rights violations.

We stand up for the norms and values expressed in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and in other relevant human rights instruments. We encourage people to claim these rights to promote democratic societies.

### WHY IS CIVIL RIGHTS DEFENDERS' WORK IMPORTANT?

On the basis of the principle of equal dignity for all, Civil Rights Defenders works toward a world of democratic societies in which we all enjoy civil and political rights. Conflicts and human rights violations increasingly pervade our world, and we believe that a well-functioning, strong, and local civil society is becoming even more important. We want to drive politics, business, and civil society forward by working and developing together on the important issues of human rights. We believe that our commitment, and expertise within our areas of knowledge, affect change and contribute to a better world for all.

### GOAL

Civil Rights Defenders' overall goal is to improve people's access to freedom and justice through greater respect for their civil and political rights. To achieve this, the work is guided by three objectives. Civil Rights Defenders shall:

1. Support people to exercise their civil and political rights through:
  - Increased access to legal aid
  - Increased access to information
2. Induce states to take responsibility for the fulfilment of human rights by:
  - Influencing legislation
  - Improving the application of human rights
3. Strengthen the work of local human rights defenders by:
  - Improving their ability and capacity to affect and drive change
  - Improving the safety of human rights defenders

**WORKING METHODS**

**Investigation and Accountability Mechanisms**

Civil Rights Defenders investigates and holds the state and other decision makers accountable when legislation or its application goes against civil and political rights. We carry out this work independently, or in collaboration with local human rights defenders. We scrutinise laws, draft legislation, and regulatory activities, and litigate against states and those in power who violate human rights. We pursue cases in national and international courts, committees, and tribunals.

**Public Opinion and Advocacy**

Civil Rights Defenders affects change and influences states, decision makers, and public opinion. We engage in opinion-shaping and advocacy work, independently or together with local human rights defenders and other organisations to increase the capacity for national and international impact. Civil Rights Defenders drives debate, runs campaigns, and highlights key issues in the media, through seminars, and reports. In totalitarian states, we communicate independent information through alternative media outlets and other forums for discussion and debate.

**Support and Education**

Civil Rights Defenders' founding principle is to promote strong local human rights actors. We focus on partnering with and empowering local actors, through security training, emergency support, education, professional development, and financial support. Based on local needs, we support developments to increase the ability and capacity for work that affects change locally. It is also a question of human rights defenders' methods as well as access to tools and systems for reporting and performance management. We also create conditions for local human rights defenders to safely meet and exchange experiences to strengthen and inspire each other.

**ORGANISATION**

Civil Rights Defenders is a non-profit expert organisation working to promote human rights. **Gerald Nagler** is the organisation's founder and honorary chair. The annual general meeting (AGM) is the organisation's highest decision-making body. Membership is conditional on supporting the organisation's goals and core values (as expressed in international human rights treaties) as well as a willingness to work towards them. The organisation's activities are primarily not governed by funding from the membership. Instead, the organisation engages in fundraising and receives grants. During 2018, the board has discussed Civil Rights Defenders' organisational form and will continue to review the issue in 2019. Membership dues for 2018 were SEK 300. The AGM elects the board, which at the end of 2018 consisted of eight members — four women and four men. Four board meetings were held during the year. There is no remuneration for the work carried out by the organisation's honorary chair, the chair of the board, and the board members. Susanne Urwitz (Lawyer) declared that she is stepping down from the nominations committee. The AGM appointed Amelie Silfverstolpe (Program Director, Axfoundation) as member of the nominations committee for another period.



**BOARD OF CIVIL RIGHTS DEFENDERS**

- Benedicte Berner (Political Scientist) Chairperson of the Board
- Anna Jonsson Cornell (Professor) Board Member
- Carin Norberg (Chair, Center for Economic and Social Rights) Board Member
- Christian Åhlund (Lawyer) Board Member
- Christoffer Lindblad (Founder and Partner, Pelago AB) Board Member
- Elisabeth Tamm (LLB and MBA) Board Member
- Fredrik Andersson (Entrepreneur) Board Member
- Lars Haggström (Executive in Residence, IMD Business School) Board Member

**BOARD OF CIVIL RIGHTS DEFENDERS**



Benedicte Berner



Anna Jonsson Cornell



Carin Norberg



Christoffer Lindblad



Elisabeth Tamm



Fredrik Andersson



Lars Haggström



Christian Åhlund

## MEMBERS

In 2018, Civil Rights Defenders had 18 members.

## CIVIL RIGHTS DEFENDERS' PERSONNEL

Civil Rights Defenders' work is primarily carried out by employed staff at the organisation's head office in Stockholm, in regional offices or through stationing in Asia, Africa, Belgrade, Bogotá, Brussels, Istanbul, Pristina, Sarajevo, and Tirana. The total number of employees at the end of 2018 was 57, compared with 52 at the end of 2017.

### Distribution by office

Stockholm	38
Asia	2
Belgrade	8
Bogotá	1
Brussels	1
Istanbul	1
Pristina	2
Sarajevo	2
Tirana	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>57</b>

## SIGNIFICANT EVENTS DURING THE FINANCIAL YEAR

During 2018, Civil Rights Defenders underwent a change in leadership. On 22 December 2017, Civil Rights Defenders' Legal Director John Stauffer took over as Acting Executive Director, when Robert Hårdh, who has led and developed the organisation for 19 years, moved on to new assignments. In May 2018, Anders L. Pettersson assumed the position as new Executive Director of Civil Rights Defenders.

During the year, a new Director of Communications was recruited and Civil Rights Defenders continued to increase investments in communication and fundraising in order to raise greater awareness of the organisation and our operations, drive non-earmarked revenue, and increase the support for Civil Rights Defenders' operations in the long-term. During the autumn of 2018, a new communication strategy has been developed that will support the organisation's long-term efforts.

In order to strengthen our ability to influence the EU, Civil Rights Defenders has fulfilled its plans to open an office in Brussels. Operations in the Horn of Africa have been broadened to create an Africa Department where an employee is periodically stationed in the region.

On the basis of the current strategy 2017–2019, a detailed plan of action is drawn up annually, in which the organisation determines short-term goals at the organisational, departmental, and individual level. In this way, the work toward common and overarching goals is coordinated. A harmonised performance management model has been implemented to follow up on the work. The overarching goals are followed up through biannual reports presented to the board, and through the annual performance review process at the individual level.

## SUSTAINABILITY EFFORTS

### Work Environment

Throughout the year, Civil Rights Defenders has focused on the psychosocial work environment, with respect to both organisational structure and creating clearer roles and expectations. The organisation has continued to implement the performance review process. Both directors and other employees have received greater knowledge to ensure quality control throughout the process.

Ahead of 2019, an HR specialist has been recruited who will continue the systematic efforts to improve the work environment that the Chief Operating Officer initiated and handed over to the Executive Director when she left Civil Rights Defenders.

### Travel and Purchases

In accordance with the organisation's environmental policy, economic and social as well as environmental considerations shall be taken into account on the occasion of purchases of services, equipment, and materials for the organisation's offices, as well as in all other procurement. For travel and transport, the most environmentally friendly options must be chosen whenever possible. Civil Rights Defenders takes responsibility for waste through waste separation and recycling of materials, and uses electricity from renewable energy sources.

### Staff Survey

At the end of 2018, the annual staff survey was carried out. We received detailed and department-specific data that is used for further development efforts. The organisation also has a system in place whereby all the work concerning outcomes is documented and can thus be followed up at both organisational and departmental level.

### Equality and Diversity

Civil Rights Defenders is an international organisation with employees from countries all over the world. More than 20 different languages are spoken within the organisation. In our Code of Conduct, which all employees and interns are required to sign, clear guidelines are given about the equality of all and what to do if you discover or are subjected to harassment or discrimination.

### Collective Labour Agreement and Professional Development

Civil Rights Defenders follows a collective labour agreement for professional employees signed by the IDEA (the Employers' Association for Non-Profit Organisations), Unionen, and Akademikerförbunden (the employee side) that covers staff employed in Sweden. Local law and agreements apply for staff at local offices abroad. Skills development is discussed in connection with the annual performance review. Development plans and goals are written into individual documents for each year.

### RISK ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT

Civil Rights Defenders performs systematic risk assessment and risk management by identifying, analysing, and working to ensure that unforeseen events or circumstances do not have a negative impact on activities and expected results. Through careful and systematic analysis, documentation, and monitoring of risks, their adverse effects can be avoided or mitigated. We differentiate between internal risks, such as the lack of adequate human resources, capacity or management functions, reporting of results, financial control, and corruption; and external risks, such as unexpected political, institutional, economic, environmental, social, or technical circumstances. Civil Rights

Defenders uses an integrated risk management approach, which involves a continuous, proactive, and systematic process to understand, manage, and communicate risks from a broad perspective. It also means making strategic decisions that contribute to achieving the organisation's overall objectives.

The board of Civil Rights Defenders conducts an annual assessment of the risks reported by the executive management and how these have been managed. Based on the analysis of risk assessment and risk management, the board decides on an annual risk management plan and assesses the extent to which it will influence strategic decisions and future operational directions. Civil Rights Defenders operates in countries with a high risk of corruption and where human rights work in many cases is prohibited. Taking preventive measures is therefore important. The organisation has a zero-tolerance policy and an anti-corruption working group. The working group deals with reported suspicions of corruption and maintains and develops best practices for compliance with the policy.

### PROFIT AND FINANCIAL POSITION

In 2018, the organisation had an operating loss of SEK 2,708,181. The reason is that the target income was not achieved, yet Civil Rights Defenders decided to go ahead with planned investments in a new project and financial management system for increased efficiency, expanded programmes in new regions, and to follow through on investments in fundraising – albeit at SEK 2 million lower than budgeted – to increase the share of non-earmarked income through donations in the long term.

Given the organisation's low equity ratio, the focus moving forward is on sustainable growth while maintaining, and preferably increasing, the equity ratio. Due to a change in the exchange rate for USD,

### MULTI-YEAR COMPARISON

	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
<b>Total income including interest income and similar profit items (SEK thousands)</b>	91,454	82,800	79,185	85,582	71,879
Operating income	91,125	82,782	78,655	85,436	71,804
Profit/loss after financial items	-2,383 615	-353,022	1,601,542	3,902,067	447,594
Project expenses/total income	91%	87%	89%	91%	94%
Fundraising expenses/total income	5%	7%	4%	1%	2%
Administrative expenses/total income	7%	6%	5%	3%	3%
Equity ratio	11%	13%	13%	11%	3%

the loss for the year has been mitigated by a foreign exchange gain, which yields a loss after financial items of SEK 2,383,615.

During the year, grants have been paid out from Civil Rights Defenders' Emergency Fund using funds raised in previous years. The loss for the year has hence been mitigated by SEK 458,586, which has been moved from special purpose funds in equity. The loss after provision, SEK 1,924,669, is carried forward. Equity carried forward thus amounts to SEK 4,329,040.

**FUNDRAISING**

Civil Rights Defenders' operating income during 2018 amounts to SEK 91,125 thousand, which represents an increase of SEK 8,343 thousand compared to 2017. The income comes from both government and private funders, and includes both donations and grants. To ensure continued financial strength and long-term stability, the organisation will continue to prioritise increasing funds raised from government and private funders. It is our intention to develop both partnerships with businesses and philanthropists as well as individual donating.

**Public Grants**

In 2018, Civil Rights Defenders' income from grants from public bodies amounted to a total of SEK 54,665 thousand, which corresponds to SEK 1,111 thousand less than in 2017. The most important grant-awarding bodies are Sida, the Swedish Institute, and the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Grants from state actors are important for maintaining long-term engagement, in Sweden and in the world.

**Foundations and Organisations**

Foundations and organisations are becoming an increasingly important source of funding for Civil Rights Defenders. In 2018, the income from this segment has almost doubled compared to 2017. The biggest contributions came from the National Endowment for Democracy, Open Society Foundations, and the Gerald and Monica Nagler Foundation.

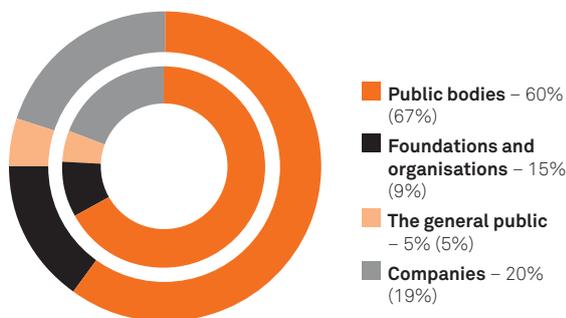
**Funds Raised from the General Public**

During the year, Civil Rights Defenders raised SEK 4,370 thousand from private individuals, which corresponds to an increase of 8.8 per cent. Both private donors, who gave sporadic donations, and approximately 1,400 regular monthly donors supported our work, which corresponds to an increase of 10.4 per cent from the previous year. Monthly donations allow for long-term planning and stability, and reduce administrative costs. Therefore, support from monthly donors continues to be prioritised in the coming years.

**Companies**

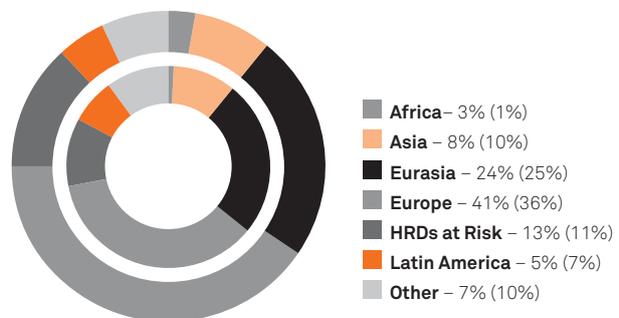
During the year, companies and organisations contributed SEK 18,937 thousand to Civil Rights Defenders, either through long-term partnerships or by giving a one-off donation. In 2017, the corresponding income from companies was SEK 15,825 thousand. Donations and grants from companies are of great importance for our ability to meet the challenges ahead, and the organisation will focus on strengthening its partnerships with companies and organisations. As a beneficiary of the Swedish Postcode Lottery, Civil Rights Defenders received

**INCOME**



**Total income incl. interest income and similar profit items for 2018: SEK 91,454 thousand (2017: SEK 82,800 thousand)**  
The outer circle shows the distribution of income for 2018 and the inner circle for 2017.

**SPECIAL PURPOSE EXPENSES**



**Special purpose expenses for 2018: SEK 82,871 thousand (2017: SEK 71,900 thousand)**  
The outer circle shows the distribution of special purpose expenses for 2018 and the inner circle for 2017.

SEK 10,000 thousand in the annual distribution, in line with the previous year. In 2018, we entered into a long-term partnership with the Swedish Football Association. Other important companies that supported our operations included F-Secure and Twitter.

### **FUTURE DEVELOPMENT**

In light of the negative trend concerning respect for human rights in the world and the increased pressure on human rights defenders, Civil Rights Defenders must strengthen and develop its operations. Around the world, the space for human rights defenders is shrinking. Civil Rights Defenders has an important role to play based on our extensive experience working to promote civil and political rights and to support human rights defenders, our broad network, and our expertise.

2019 is the final year for the current strategy. In September 2018, future planning efforts were therefore initiated with a review of the organisation's vision and mission, as well as preparations for the upcoming strategy period 2020–2022. These efforts have included external analysis and anticipation in relation to human rights and the sector in which we operate. The aim has been to create good conditions

for positioning ourselves ahead of coming years in the work to promote civil and political rights and to create long-term sustainability in our operations in terms of capacity and resources.

In order to meet the resource needs of a continued expansion, we are continuing to invest in fundraising primarily in Sweden and to maintain efforts initiated abroad. These will contribute to a greater awareness as well as increased non-earmarked income and enable long-term strategic work.

Geographically, Civil Rights Defenders will increase its capacity to reach a critical mass in all regions and parts of the world where we already operate. Due to developments in Europe, we also see an increased need to strengthen efforts in our own vicinity with the support of our office in Brussels, which opened in 2018. There is also a great need to act in the Middle East/on the Arabian Peninsula and in North Africa. This work is divided into three stages, with a pilot effort initiated in the first quarter of 2019.

### **CODE REPORT BASED ON FRII GUIDELINES**

Civil Rights Defenders follows the Code of Quality issued by FRII (Swedish Fundraising Council). See [www.frii.se](http://www.frii.se).

## INCOME STATEMENT

		<i>Amounts in SEK</i>	
	Note	2018	2017
<b>Operating income</b>	3		
Membership dues		5,400	5,400
Donations		15,368,517	15,059,110
Grants		75,261,547	67,253,282
Other income		489,413	463,783
<b>Total operating income</b>		<b>91,124,877</b>	<b>82,781,575</b>
<b>Operating expenses</b>	4, 5		
Project expenses	6	-82,871,235	-71,899,626
Fundraising expenses		-4,512,025	-6,013,898
Administrative expenses	7	-6,449,798	-4,582,291
<b>Total operating expenses</b>		<b>-93,833,058,</b>	<b>-82,495,815,</b>
<b>Operating profit/loss</b>		<b>-,2,708,181</b>	<b>285,760</b>
Other interest income and similar profit items	8	328,837	18,331
Interest expenses and similar loss items	8	-4,271	-657,113
<b>Loss after financial items</b>		<b>-2,383,615</b>	<b>-353,022</b>
<b>Loss for the year</b>		<b>-2,383,615</b>	<b>-353,022</b>
<b>Changes in special purpose funds</b>			
Loss for the year according to the income statement (see above)		-2,383,615	-353,022
Utilisation of special purpose funds from previous year		839,227	590,977
Designation of special purpose funds		-380,281	-756,097
<b>Remaining amount for the year/changes in equity carried forward</b>		<b>-1,924,669</b>	<b>-518,142</b>

## BALANCE SHEET

Amounts in SEK

ASSETS	Note	2018-12-31	2017-12-31
<b>Current assets</b>			
<b>Current receivables</b>			
Accounts receivable		125,019	150,200
Other receivables		443,620	202,925
Prepaid expenses and accrued income	9	1,266,836	1,121,302
<b>Total current receivables</b>		<b>1,835,475</b>	<b>1,474,427</b>
<b>Cash and bank balances</b>		<b>38,620,150</b>	<b>50,764,794</b>
<b>Total current assets</b>		<b>40,455,625</b>	<b>52,239,221</b>
<b>Total assets</b>		<b>40,455,625</b>	<b>52,239,221</b>
<b>EQUITY AND LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>Equity</b>			
Special purpose funds		26,895	485,841
Profit carried forward		4,329,040	6,253,709
<b>Total equity</b>		<b>4,355,935</b>	<b>6,739,550</b>
<b>Current liabilities</b>			
Accounts payable		1,403,149	2,484,976
Liabilities – received, unutilised grants	10	27,361,788	36,079,924
Other liabilities		725,028	1,115,673
Accrued expenses and deferred income	11	6,609,725	5,819,098
<b>Total current liabilities</b>		<b>36,099,690</b>	<b>45,499,671</b>
<b>Total equity and liabilities</b>		<b>40,455,625</b>	<b>52,239,221</b>

## CHANGES IN EQUITY

	Special purpose funds (Emergency Fund)	Profit/loss carried forward	Amounts in SEK Total equity
Opening balance	485,841	6,253,709	6,739,550
Special purpose designated by donor	380,281	-380,281	-
Utilisation :	-839,227	839,227	-
Loss for the year		-2,383,615	-2,383,615
<b>Closing balance</b>	<b>26,895</b>	<b>4,329,040</b>	<b>4,355,935</b>

Around the world, brave people are standing up for the rights of others – without a thought to their own safety. The Emergency Fund enables us to assist these people when at risk and in emergency situations.

## CASH FLOW ANALYSIS – INDIRECT METHOD

	Note	2018	Amounts in SEK 2017
<b>Operating activities</b>			
Operating profit/loss		-2,708,181	285,760
		<b>-2,708,181</b>	<b>285,760</b>
Interest received		3,473	18,331
Interest paid		-4,271	-2,580
<b>Cash flow from operating activities before changes in working capital</b>		<b>-2,708,979</b>	<b>301,511</b>
Changes in working capital:			
Change in accounts receivable		25,181	7,638
Change in other current receivables		-386,229	338,397
Change in accounts payable		-1,081,827	343,441
Change in other current liabilities		-8,318,153	-2,500,412
<b>Cash flow from operating activities</b>		<b>-12,470,007</b>	<b>-1,509,425</b>
<b>Cash flow for the year</b>		<b>-12,470,007</b>	<b>-1,509,425</b>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year</b>		<b>50,764,794</b>	<b>52,928,752</b>
<b>Exchange rate differences related to cash and bank balances</b>		<b>325,364</b>	<b>-654,533</b>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at year end</b>		<b>38,620,150</b>	<b>50,764,794</b>

## NOTES

### NOTE 1 ACCOUNTING AND VALUATION PRINCIPLES

The accounting and valuation principles comply with the Swedish Annual Accounts Act, BFAR 2012:1 (K3) and the Swedish Fundraising Council's (FRIL) governing guidelines for annual reports, unless otherwise stated below. The accounting principles remain unchanged from the previous year.

### INCOME STATEMENT

#### Operating Income

Income is recognised at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable. Membership dues comprise payments received for membership of Civil Rights Defenders. Membership dues are recognised as income when payments are received from the members. A transaction in which Civil Rights Defenders receives an asset or a service with a value attached, without providing anything of the same value in return, constitutes a donation or a grant. If the asset or service is received because Civil Rights Defenders has met or will meet certain conditions, and the organisation has an obligation to repay the counterparty if such conditions are not met, such an asset or service is classified as a grant. If it does not constitute a grant, it is a donation. Donations are mainly funds raised from private individuals, companies, and organisations. Donations are reported on a cash basis, but if a donation refers to a specific time period, it is allocated to that period through provisions for special purpose funds in equity. If there are donations from companies and organisations that have been agreed but not received at the reporting date, these are recognised as income following individual assessment. Grants are recognised as income when the conditions attached to them have been met. Grants received are recognised as a liability until the conditions attached to them have been met. This means that income is only recognised when it is highly probable that the grant will not be reclaimed. Grants forwarded to partner organisations where Civil Rights Defenders is responsible to the awarding body are also recognised as income. Grants consist mainly of cash and cash equivalents from public bodies, including the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), the Swedish Institute, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Postcode Lottery. Income not connected to Civil Rights Defenders' primary operations is reported under Other income for the respective period.

#### Operating Expenses

Operating expenses include project expenses, fundraising expenses, and administrative expenses. Joint expenses such as IT, accounting, operational management, and communication expenses are allocated to project expenses, fundraising expenses, and administrative expenses according to an allocation key. Project expenses are those that are directly associated with the fulfilment of Civil

Rights Defenders' purpose according to its statutes. These include expenses for personnel engaged to carry out activities adopted by the board, in and outside of Sweden, and any administrative expenses directly arising from the obligations the organisation has assumed in order to fulfil its purpose. Project expenses also include expenses for opinion-shaping and information activities regarding Civil Rights Defenders' mission. The monitoring, reporting, and auditing of projects are also classified as project expenses. Project expenses also include activity-related support expenses, which are allocated to the relevant activity using allocation keys. Fundraising expenses are expenses intended to generate external income in the form of donations and grants from all donors and grant-awarding bodies, i.e. both private individuals and companies. This includes existing donors and efforts to identify new donors through campaigns, mailings, and maintenance of donor registers. Fundraising expenses also include costs of printed materials, postage, salaries, and allocated joint support expenses. Administrative expenses include those related to statutes and legal requirements, such as the Board of Directors, the annual general meeting, financial statements, preparation of the annual report and audit, as well as central management and planning. Expenses not related to projects or fundraising are classified as administrative expenses. Administrative expenses may also include any joint support expenses that have not been allocated to project, fundraising, or membership expenses. All leases are recognised as operating leases, which means that lease payments are recognised on a straight line basis over the term of the lease. Remuneration of employees in the form of salaries, social security contributions, and other benefits are recognised as an expense as and when the employees perform the services. Pension obligations are classified as defined-contribution pensions and recognised as an expense in the year in which the pension is earned. Civil Rights Defenders is a non-profit association and as such is not liable to pay taxes.

### BALANCE SHEET

Assets and liabilities are measured at cost unless otherwise stated below. Foreign currency receivables and liabilities are measured at the closing rate. Accounts receivable are measured individually at the amounts expected to be received. Civil Rights Defenders is a non-profit association – it does not aim to make a profit and has no external owners – which means that terms such as profit/loss and equity have a different meaning than for other legal forms, such as limited companies. Equity comprises funds, such as donations, that have been provided to enable the organisation to fulfil its purposes and have not been paid out at the reporting date, and for which there is no legally binding obligation classified as a liability or provision. As there are restrictions on the use of various funds, the following division is made:

- **Special purpose funds:** This capital may be used, but only for the purpose or purposes specified by the donor or the Board of Directors. Such funds are generally used in the following financial year. The funds include fund-raising donations where a specific project was specified, and which have not yet been utilised.
- **Equity carried forward:** This capital consists mainly of unused funds that have been provided to the organisation without restrictions, as well as the organisation's profit or loss. Unused funds that have been provided to the organisation without restrictions are at the disposal of the Board of Directors and may be used in accordance

with the organisation's statutes and to fulfil the organisation's purposes. The profit or loss for the year (before allocation), as recognised in the income statement, represents the difference between operating income, operating expenses, and profit from financial activities.

#### NOTE 2 ESTIMATES AND ASSESSMENTS

No material items in the organisation's income statement and balance sheet are based on estimates and assessments.

#### NOTE 3 FUNDS RAISED

*Donations recognised in the income statement*

	2018	2017
General public	4,369,684	4,017,701
Companies:		
Swedish Postcode Lottery	10,000,000	10,000,000
Other companies	648,833	627,931
Other organisations	350,000	388,478
External foundations	0	25,000
<b>Total income</b>	<b>15,368,517</b>	<b>15,059,110</b>

Pro-bono services received have not been recognised in the income statement and in 2018 mainly related to services within communication and law.

*Grants recognised as income*

Public bodies:		
Sida	51,699,965	52,305,599
Swedish Institute	1,247,455	810,746
Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs	1,416,254	1,363,548
Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs	301,213	1,295,837
Foundations and organisations:		
National Endowment for Democracy	2,892,676	1,143,516
Open Society Foundations	5,899,663	2,651,517
Gerald & Monica Nagler Foundation	463,958	356,908
Other	3,402,187	2,542,282
Companies:		
Swedish Postcode Lottery	7,938,175	4,783,329
<b>Total income</b>	<b>75,261,546</b>	<b>67,253,282</b>
<i>Other income</i>		
Reimbursement of expenses	489,413	463,783
<b>Total other income</b>	<b>489,413</b>	<b>463,783</b>

Amounts in SEK

**NOTE 4 SALARIES, OTHER BENEFITS, AND SOCIAL SECURITY CONTRIBUTIONS****Salaries**

	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>
Board of Directors	–	–
Executive Director	978,247	1,061,615
Other employees	21,213,293	19,308,781
Social security contributions	7,509,494	6,929,894
Pension expenses	2,228,667	2,024,491
<b>Total salaries and benefits</b>	<b>31,929,701</b>	<b>29,324,781</b>

During the first five months of the year, the organisation was led by an Acting Executive Director. The new Executive Director assumed the position in May. The note includes remuneration to these two persons during the respective periods they held the position. The Executive Directors' pension expenses accounted for SEK 321,055 (SEK 211,471) of total pension expenses.

Remuneration below one half base amount amounted to SEK 29,600 (SEK 5,000). The period of notice between Civil Rights Defenders and the Executive Director is three months. There is no severance agreement.

**Geographical distribution of salaries and other benefits:**

	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>
Sweden	19,051,697	17,705,634
Other countries	3,139,843	2,664,762
<b>Total</b>	<b>22,191,540</b>	<b>20,370,396</b>

**Average number of employees, Sweden**

Men	13	14
Women	24	21
<b>Total</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>35</b>

**Average number of employees, other countries**

Men	7	5
Women	10	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>15</b>

**Members of the board**

Men	4	3
Women	4	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>

During the year, 24 (24) individuals worked for Civil Rights Defenders on a voluntary basis. These voluntary contributions are not recognised in the income statement.

**NOTE 5 LEASES**

Civil Rights Defenders mainly rents office premises in Sweden and in other parts of the world. Expenses for the year amounted to SEK 3,909,000 (SEK 3,694,000).

Future office expenses are due as follows:

	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>
Within 1 year	3,675,000	3,453,000
2–5 years	3,892,000	5,738,000

The lease agreement runs until 2020, with a renewal option.

Amounts in SEK

<b>NOTE 6 PROJECT EXPENSES</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>
Africa	2,203,687	1,029,804
Asia	6,491,881	7,215,879
Eurasia	19,419,249	17,829,016
Europe	29,230,185	21,008,148
Latin America	4,235,795	5,198,232
Protection of Human Rights Defenders at risk	10,327,112	7,560,030
Sweden	4,931,554	5,089,178
Other	6,031,772	6,969,339
<b>Total project expenses</b>	<b>82,871,235</b>	<b>71,899,626</b>

<b>NOTE 7 ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>
Accounting expenses and administration	913,898	631,677
Human resource expenses	3,528,155	3,254,693
Installation of new project and financial management system	1,259,000	–
Office expenses	591,717	694,136
Board and membership expenses	157,028	1,785
<b>Total administrative expenses</b>	<b>6,449,798</b>	<b>4,582,291</b>

<b>NOTE 8 OTHER INTEREST AND SIMILAR PROFIT/LOSS ITEMS</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>
Interest income	3,473	18,331
Interest expenses	-4,271	-2,580
Exchange rate differences, cash and bank balances	325,364	-654,533
<b>Total</b>	<b>324,566</b>	<b>-638,782</b>

<b>NOTE 9 PREPAID EXPENSES AND ACCRUED INCOME</b>	<b>2018-12-31</b>	<b>2017-12-31</b>
Prepaid expenses:		
Rent	896,431	855,817
Pensions	–	10,400
Other items	370,405	255,085
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,266,836</b>	<b>1,121,302</b>

Amounts in SEK

<b>NOTE 10 LIABILITIES – RECEIVED, UNUTILISED GRANTS</b>	<b>2018-12-31</b>	<b>2017-12-31</b>
Liability, unutilised grant from Sida	16,411,671	15,447,901
Liability, unutilised grant from the Swedish Postcode Lottery	7,515,333	12,658,728
Liability, unutilised grant from others	3,434,784	7,973,295
<b>Total</b>	<b>27,361,788</b>	<b>36,079,924</b>

<b>NOTE 11 ACCRUED EXPENSES AND DEFERRED INCOME</b>	<b>2018-12-31</b>	<b>2017-12-31</b>
Accrued social security contributions	1,378,642	1,207,068
Holiday pay liability	2,919,411	2,380,891
Payroll tax	989,701	871,352
Other items	1,321,971	1,359,788
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,609,725</b>	<b>5,819,098</b>

**NOTE 12 SIGNIFICANT EVENTS AFTER THE END OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR**

Operations have continued as previously in 2019.

Stockholm, 5 May 2019



**Benedicte Berner**  
Chair



**Anna Jonsson Cornell**  
Board Member



**Elisabeth Tamm**  
Board Member



**Carin Norberg**  
Board Member



**Christoffer Lindblad**  
Board Member



**Fredrik Andersson**  
Board Member



**Lars Haggström**  
Board Member



**Christian Åhlund**  
Board Member



**Anders Pettersson**  
Executive Director

Our audit report was submitted on 9 May 2019.

**Grant Thornton Sweden AB**



**Lena Johnson**  
Authorised Public Accountant

# AUDIT REPORT

## TO THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF CIVIL RIGHTS DEFENDERS, ORGANISATION ID NO. 802011-1442

### REPORT ON THE ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

#### OPINION

We have audited the annual accounts for Civil Rights Defenders for the year 2018. The association's annual accounts are included on pages 13–26 of this document.

In our opinion, the annual accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Swedish Annual Accounts Act and present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the association at 31 December 2018 and its financial performance and cash flow for the year then ended. The statutory administration report is consistent with the other parts of the annual accounts.

We therefore recommend that the annual general meeting adopt the income statement and the balance sheet.

#### BASIS FOR OPINION

We conducted the audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISA) and generally accepted auditing standards in Sweden. Our responsibilities under these standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities section. We are independent of the association in accordance with ethical requirements for professional accountants in Sweden and have otherwise fulfilled our ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

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

#### INFORMATION OTHER THAN THE ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

The Board of Directors and the Executive Director are responsible for other information. The other information consists of the annual report for 2018 (but does not include the annual accounts and our audit report concerning these).

Our opinion on the annual accounts does not extend to this information and we do not express any form of confirmation regarding this other information.

In connection with our audit of the annual accounts, it is our responsibility to read the information identified above and consider whether the information is materially inconsistent with the annual accounts. During this procedure, we also take into account our knowledge otherwise obtained during the audit and assess whether the information appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work performed concerning this information, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

## RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Board of Directors and the Executive Director are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the annual accounts in accordance with the Annual Accounts Act. The Board of Directors and the Executive Director are also responsible for such internal control as they determine necessary to enable the preparation of annual accounts that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or mistake.

In preparing the annual accounts, the Board of Directors and the Executive Director are responsible for the assessment of the association's ability to continue as a going concern. They disclose, as applicable, matters related to the going concern and use of the going concern basis of accounting. The going concern basis of accounting is, however, not applied if the Board of Directors and the Executive Director intend to liquidate the association, cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

#### AUDITOR'S RESPONSIBILITY

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the annual accounts as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or mistake, and to issue an audit report that includes our opinions. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISA and generally accepted auditing standards in Sweden will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or mistake and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users made on the basis of these annual accounts.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISA, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the annual accounts, whether due to fraud or mistake, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinions. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from mistake, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- obtain an understanding of the association's internal control relevant to our audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate to the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the internal control.
- evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Board of Directors and the Executive Director.

- draw a conclusion on the appropriateness of the Board of Directors' and the Executive Director's use of the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the annual accounts. We also draw a conclusion, based on the audit evidence obtained, as to whether any material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the association's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our audit report to the related disclosures in the annual accounts or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion about the annual accounts. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our audit report. However, future events or conditions may cause an association to cease to continue as a going concern.
- evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the annual accounts, including the disclosures, and whether the annual accounts represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We must inform the Board of Directors of, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit. We must also inform them of significant findings during our audit, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we have identified.

#### **REPORT ON OTHER LEGAL AND REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS**

##### **OPINION**

In addition to our audit of the annual accounts, we have also examined the Board of Directors' and the Executive Director's administration of Civil Rights Defenders for the year 2018.

We recommend that the annual general meeting discharge the members of the board and the Executive Director from liability for the financial year.

##### **BASIS FOR OPINION**

We conducted the audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards in Sweden. Our responsibilities in this regard are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities section. We are independent of the association in accordance with ethical requirements for professional accountants in Sweden and have otherwise fulfilled our ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

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

#### **RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

The Board of Directors and the Executive Director are responsible for administration in accordance with the statutes.

##### **AUDITOR'S RESPONSIBILITY**

Our objective for the audit of the administration, and therefore our opinion regarding discharge from liability, is to obtain audit evidence to assess with a reasonable degree of assurance whether any member of the Board of Directors or the Executive Director in any material respect has undertaken any action or been guilty of any omission which could give rise to liability to the association.

Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards in Sweden will always detect an action or omission which could give rise to liability to the association.

As part of an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards in Sweden, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. The examination of the administration is based primarily on the audit of the accounts. Additional audit procedures performed are based on our professional judgement, with a starting point in risk and materiality. This means that we focus the examination on such actions, areas and relationships that are material for operations and where deviations and violations would be of particular importance for the association's situation. We examine and test decisions made, support for decisions, actions taken, and other circumstances that are relevant to our opinion concerning discharge from liability.

Stockholm, 9 May 2019

Grant Thornton Sweden AB



Lena Johnson  
Authorised Public Accountant

## DIRECTORS AND OFFICES AT THE END OF 2018

### HEAD OFFICE STOCKHOLM (SWEDEN)

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Anders L. Pettersson, *Executive Director*

Karin Fritz, *Chief Operating Officer*

### DEPARTMENTS, HEAD OFFICE

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#### AFRICA DEPARTMENT

Gabrielle Gunneberg, *Programme Director*

#### ASIA DEPARTMENT

Martin Gemzell, *Programme Director*

#### COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

Maria Granefelt, *Director of Communications*

#### EURASIA DEPARTMENT

Ana Furtuna, *Programme Director*

#### EUROPE DEPARTMENT

Goran Miletic, *Programme Director*

#### FINANCE DEPARTMENT

Karin Fritz, *Chief Financial Officer*

#### FUNDRAISING DEPARTMENT

Anna Magnard, *Development Director*

#### HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS AT RISK DEPARTMENT

Marcin de Kaminski, *Programme Director*

#### LATIN AMERICA DEPARTMENT

Erik Jennische, *Programme Director*

#### LEGAL DEPARTMENT

John Stauffer, *Legal Director och Deputy Executive Director*

### NATIONAL AND REGIONAL OFFICES

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#### ASIA

Martin Gemzell, *Programme Director*

#### BELGRADE (SERBIA)

Goran Miletic, *Programme Director*

#### BOGOTÁ (COLOMBIA)

María Pía Alvira, *Programme Officer*

#### BRUSSELS (BELGIUM)

Tommaso Nodari, *Programme Director*

#### ISTANBUL (TURKEY)

Goran Miletic, *Programme Director*

#### PRISTINA (KOSOVO)

Sarah Maliqi, *Programme Officer*

#### SARAJEVO (BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA)

Ena Bavic, *Programme Officer*

#### TIRANA (ALBANIA)

Vasilika Laci, *Programme Officer*

## BOARD



**Benedicte Berner,**  
*Political Scientist*  
*(Chairperson of the Board)*

Benedicte Berner is a lecturer in Media and Democracy at Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris. She has also lectured on freedom of expression at Harvard University and is an associate at the Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies at Harvard. She has previously worked at the International Red Cross and IOM (International Organization for Migration) in Moscow, and as Director of International Issues at the European Institute for the Media.



**Christoffer Lindblad,**  
*Founder and Partner, Pelago AB*  
*(Board Member)*

Christoffer Lindblad is the founder of and a partner in Pelago, a prominent Nordic leadership services company. Christoffer was previously the Country Manager for Sweden and a partner in Alumni, a leading company in executive recruitment and leadership development. He has a broad network within the Nordic business community and extensive experience in board and executive recruitment for large international corporations and organisations. Christoffer has a law degree from the University of Lund and has previously worked for the law firm Mannheimer Swartling.



**Anna Jonsson Cornell,**  
*Professor (Board Member)*

Anna Jonsson Cornell is Professor of Comparative Constitutional Law and Vice Dean of the Faculty of Law at Uppsala University. She teaches constitutional law, comparative constitutional law, and security law. Her specialist areas include state-building processes, rule of law, and rights protection, as well as international police cooperation and human trafficking.



**Elisabeth Tamm,**  
*LLB and MBA (Board Member)*

Elisabeth Tamm works at the law firm Translaw. She is Chair of the Board of the Alba Langenskiöld Foundation and the Foundation for the Astrid Lindgren Children's Hospital. She also serves on a number of other boards, including the H&M Foundation and the Erling Persson Family Foundation. Elisabeth Tamm holds an LLB and an MBA from Uppsala University.



**Carin Norberg,**  
*Chair, Center for Economic and Social Rights (Board Member)*

Carin Norberg holds a master's degree in Political Science from Uppsala University. She has extensive experience of working with Sida, where she was employed from 1971 to 2002. She has also worked as Advisor to the Office of the United Nations Commissioner for Namibia in New York and was Director of the Nordic Africa Institute during the period 2006–2012. Carin has also been an active member of several boards, including the Swedish Institute Alexandria and TI Sweden.



**Fredrik Andersson,**  
*Entrepreneur (Board Member)*

Fredrik Andersson has extensive experience in strategic communications consultancy and entrepreneurship, both in Sweden and internationally. He also has a long track record working with social, political, and rights issues. Fredrik is a partner and a member of the board of Milton Group, one of the leading communications companies in the Nordic countries with 250 employees in Helsinki, Tallinn, Stockholm, Brussels, and Washington D.C. He is also a partner in Fotografiska and a member of the board of the MEDEA Award for Dramatic Arts in Sweden. In 1998, he founded the Public Affairs Section at the PR agency Prime, where he worked for 14 years.



**Lars Haggström,**  
*Executive in Residence, IMD Business School (Board Member)*

Lars Haggström is Executive in Residence at IMD Business School in Lausanne, Switzerland, where he works with clients and is a lecturer and researcher in leadership and change. He is also the founder and CEO of the corporate and personal development company Enable Performance AB. Lars previously worked as HR Director of the renewable materials company Stora Enso, and before that as HR Director of Nordea. He has also worked in the pharmaceutical industry in the UK and the US. Lars has a degree in Behavioural Science and Economics from Uppsala University.



**Christian Åhlund,**  
*Lawyer (Board Member)*

Christian Åhlund has been a member of the Swedish Bar Association since 1983 with a focus on international humanitarian law, labour law, and criminal proceedings. Christian was a driving force behind the founding of the International Legal Assistance Consortium (ILAC) in 2002 and acted as its Executive Director until 2015. Christian has previously chaired the Swedish Bar Association's Committee on Human Rights and the European joint Human Rights Committee within the CCBE (Conseil Consultatif des Barreaux Européens). Since 2005 he also represents Sweden on the Council of Europe European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI).

## **CIVIL RIGHTS DEFENDERS**

is an international human rights organisation founded in Sweden in 1982. We work for and together with thousands of human rights defenders who fight for democracy and respect for human rights across the world. Our task is to make sure that they can be safer, smarter, and faster in their work. We also hold decision makers in Sweden to account when they violate human rights at home. With your support, we can accomplish more.

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## **QUESTIONS ABOUT DONATING?**

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RIGHTS  
DEFENDERS**

WE EMPOWER PEOPLE

## CONTACT US

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