

# ANNUAL REPORT

2006 - 07

COMMONWEALTH HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVE



## 1. ORGANISATIONAL INFORMATION

The Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI) is an independent, non-partisan, international non-governmental organisation, mandated to ensure the *practical* realisation of human rights across the Commonwealth. Full information can be found at: [www.humanrightsinitiative.org](http://www.humanrightsinitiative.org).

### 1.1. History

CHRI was founded in 1987 by Commonwealth profession associations - doctors, journalists, lawyers, legal educators and joined later by parliamentarians, broadcasters, publishers and trades unions, - as they felt that while member countries had both a common set of values and legal principles from which to work, and a forum within which to promote human rights, there was little focus on human rights issues.

### 1.2. Objectives

CHRI's objectives are to promote awareness of and adherence to the Harare Commonwealth Declaration, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and other internationally recognised human rights instruments, as well as in-country laws and policies that support human rights in member states.

### 1.3. Offices

CHRI has a family of offices - Headquarters in New Delhi, India; an Africa Office in Accra, Ghana; and a Liaison Office in London -, which jointly implement our programme activities. In 1993, CHRI's headquarters moved to New Delhi and the Africa office in Accra was established in 2001.

### 1.4. Governance

CHRI has an international Advisory Commission made up of eminent people from across the Commonwealth. It sets the policy directions for all the offices. The London, Accra and New Delhi offices have their own governing bodies that oversee the day-to-day implementation of program directions. For cohesion and harmonization the Chairs of all the executive committees also sit on the International Advisory Commission. The Director is the CEO in charge of all the offices and programs.

### 1.5. Registrations

India: FCRA Registration No. 231650671; Registration No. S-24565 under Societies Registration Act; Registration No. D.I.T. (Exemption)/94-95/C-390/94/417 U/S 80-G.

United Kingdom: Charity registration number: 803235, Non profit company number: 2488240

Ghana: Companies Code 1963 (Act 179)(#G.8,330); recognised as NGO (#2887) by the Department of Social Welfare

## 1.6. Governing Body Members

### International Advisory Commission

Name	Designation	Affiliation	Sex	Country
Sam Okudzeto	Member	CLA	Male	Ghana
Dr. Nihal Jayawickrama	Chair - TC	Ex-Officio	Male	UK
Murray Burt	Member	CJA	Male	Canada
Dr. Eunice Brookman-Amissah	Member	CMA	Female	Kenya
B. G Verghese	Chair - EC	CJA	Male	India
Jean Corston	Member	CPA	Female	UK
Zohra Yusuf	Member	Co-opted	Female	Pakistan
Alison Duxbury	Member	Co-opted	Female	Australia
Bernadette Rounds Ganilau	Member	CBA	Female	Fiji
Maja Daruwala	Secretary	Ex-Officio	Female	India

### Trustee Committee, London

NAME	Designation	Affiliation	Sex
Colin Nicholls (Claire Martin)	Member	CLA	Male
Derek Ingram OBE	Member	CJA	Male
Elizabeth Smith, OBE	Member	CBA	Female
John Hatchard (Prof)	Member	CLEA	Male
Lindsay Ross	Vice Chair & Director	CPU	Female

Meenakshi Dhar	Member	CPA	Female
Neville Linton (Dr)	Member	Co - opted	Male
Peter Slinn (Dr)	Secretary & Director	CLEA	Male
Dr. Nihal Jayawickrama	Trustee-Chair	Co-opted	Male

**Executive Committee, Headquarters, India**

S.No	Name	Position	Sex
1.	B.G. Verghese	Chair and pro-tem Treasurer	Male
2.	Anu Aga	Member	Female
3.	K.S. Dhillon	Member	Male
4.	R.V. Pillai	Member	Male
5.	Harivansh	Member	Male
6.	Prof. B. K Chandrashekar	Member	Male
7.	Prof. Moolchand Sharma	Member	Male
8.	Poonam Muttreja	Member	Female
9.	Bhagwan Das	Member	Male
10.	Sanjoy Hazarika	Member	Male
11.	Nitin Desai	Member	Male
12.	Justice Ruma Pal	Member	Female
13.	Maja Daruwala	Secretary	Female

Executive Committee, Africa Office, Accra

S.No	Name	Position	Sex
1.	Sam Okudzeto	Chair Also Chair, CHRI International Advisory Commission	Male
2.	Anna Bossman	Member	Female
3.	Maja Daruwala	Member Director CHRI	Female

**1.7. Contact details:**

For more information contact Maja Daruwala, Director: B117 (second floor), Sarvodaya Enclave, New Delhi, 110 017, India. Tel: (91-11) 2685 0523 or 2686 4678; Fax: (91-11) 2686 4688; email: [majadhun@vsnl.com](mailto:majadhun@vsnl.com) Website: [www.humanrightsinitiative.org](http://www.humanrightsinitiative.org)

## 2. INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### 2.1. Institutional Support Renewed by Sir Dorabji Tata Trust

Sir Dorabji Tata Trust approved an institutional and programme grant of Rs. 464 lakhs to CHRI for a three year period from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2007 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010. This grant will provide institutional and administrative support to head quarters for three years. It will also fully support the Right to Information (India) programme from 2008-10 and the Prison Reforms programme from 2007-10.

The renewal grant was made after rigorous evaluations of our work and our financial and accounting systems by external consultants on behalf of the Trust. Both reports were positive and encouraging and the few suggestions from them were taken on board while developing the proposal for the renewal grant.

### 2.2. Associate Membership of FIDH

CHRI has been accepted as an associate member of Des Ligues Des Droits De L'homme (International Federation for Human Rights) at their triennial global networking meeting at Lisbon, Portugal, which the director attended.

### 2.3. Staffing

**Ms. Maja Daruwala, Director:** Ms. Daruwala is a barrister by training and a human rights advocate of international standing. She has been with the Law and Society Trust, Colombo and the Ford Foundation in New Delhi before taking over as Director of CHRI in 1997. She is on the board of several International and Indian NGOs including the Open Society Justice Initiative, International Women's Health Coalition and Voluntary Action Network of India.

**Ms. Peta Fitzgibbon, Deputy Director:** Ms Peta Fitzgibbon, an Australian national joined as Deputy Director in January 2007. She has a Masters degree in Social Administration and hold memberships of Australian Association of Social Workers and Accredited Practitioner, Amnesty International and Oxfam, Australia.

**Mr. Mohan Sundaram:** *Secretary to the Director*, has a Bachelor of Arts qualification. He has worked in various government organizations. He maintains and updates CHRI's data base and provides secretarial assistance across the office.

**Ms. Vinu Sampath Kumar:** *Executive Assistant to the Director*, holds a Doctorate in International Politics from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. She has worked for over six years in the development sector. A recent addition to the staff, Ms Vinu assists the Director with her liaison with other CHRI offices, reporting to governing bodies, networking, correspondence, and recruitment.

## ***HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCACY PROGRAM***

**Mr. R. Iniyan Ilango:** *Consultant*, has an LL.M degree from the National Law School of India University, Bangalore. Iniyan has recently joined our Human Rights Advocacy unit and presently coordinates the Commonwealth Human Rights Network for CHRI and prepares our submissions to the UN and the Commonwealth.

**Mr. Ned Brown:** Ned has joined the Human Rights Advocacy team. He has a degree in Political Science and International Relations and will embark upon the study of an MSC at SOAS in September. During my undergraduate course, I focused upon changing attitudes towards development, and security. I will concentrate on linking regional conflict with wider international affairs for my postgraduate study. Living and working abroad has given me some understanding of how the implications of high level politics can affect people in normal life. My experience of working abroad covers areas such as human rights, HIV/AIDS awareness, cultural education and general development.

## **MEDIA AND COMMUNICATION**

**Ms. Aditi Datta:** *Media Officer* holds an M.Phil degree in Political Science, and has previously worked as a journalist in India Abroad News Service and Indo-Asian News Service. Our bridge to the world of communiqué, her current assignments involve communicating CHRI's advocacy concerns into the mass media across the Commonwealth, and catalysing journalists to write frequently on issues of human rights concerns on the newswires and list serves.

**Ms. Swati Kapoor:** *Media & Communications Officer*, has a bachelors degree in Journalism and a Masters in Mass Communication from London. She has vast experience of more than six years in this field and has worked in the media and journalism sector. She coordinates our media advocacy work nationally with journalists and the television and radio network. She is also working on developing radio spots and jingles with advertising agencies.

## ***ACCESS TO INFORMATION PROGRAMME***

**Mr. Venkatesh Nayak:** *Programme Coordinator, Access to Information Programme*, is presently a key public training resource on Right to Information across South Asia. He has trained more than 3500 officers of government and more than 500 executives of public sector enterprises for implementing India's new transparency law. Previously a Doctoral Research Fellow in History, he has authored public education documents on the right to information, the basic structure of the Indian Constitution, issues of social justice, electoral reforms, efficacy of public audit mechanisms and fact-finding mission reports on human rights violations.

**Ms. Sohini Paul:** *Project Officer, Right to Information Programme* has a Masters Degree in Geography and another in Regional Planning. She is an experienced trainer. Her present tasks include conducting capacity building for civil society organizations on Right to Information and researching access to information issues as they relate to local governance. She has written and published books on the Panchayati Raj laws and the

right to information for different states, some of which are being translated into Hindi as well.

**Ms. Madhumita D. Mitra** joined CHRI as a Consultant in the Access to Information Programme. As part of the India team, she is researching the decisions of the Central and select State Information Commissions which have interpretative and precedential value. The product will be published as an annotated edition to the Right to Information Act, 2005. Prior to joining CHRI, Madhumita was working in a regulatory department of the Central Government in Delhi. She has a post-graduate degree in Law.

**Ms. Claire Cronin** joined the Right to Information team in November 2006. She has a masters degree in Understanding and Securing Human Rights from the Institute of Commonwealth Studies in London where she specialised in post-conflict collective memory in Bosnia-Herzegovina. She has done a research internship for London-based freedom of expression NGO 'Index on Censorship.' Before joining CHRI Claire worked on public affairs issues for youth charity The Prince's Trust and has also worked as a Intelligence Officer for the UK Environment Agency.

**Ms. Cecelia Burgman:** *Consultant*, has a Masters in development Studies from Sweden and is a holder of a graduate diploma in Legal practice. She did her LL.B from Australia. She was Policy Advisor with the Australian Government treasury and Director of FaBRIC Inc. Australia. She has joined the programme recently and is tasked with undertaking the comparative research on RTI laws as well as monitoring the CSO and media campaigns to institute transparency regimes in various Commonwealth countries.

**Ms. Reshmi Mitra:** *Project Assistant*, has an LL.M degree from the National Law School of India University, Bangalore and is working in our Access to Information programme. She has previously worked in ActionAid. She undertakes the research and writing on the legal dimensions of RTI and other laws in India and across the Commonwealth.

**Ms. Rashmi Jalota:** *Part-time Consultant*, holds LL.B. and B.Sc qualifications and is assisting with the right to information programme. She provides assistance in researching, editing publications and articles, dissemination of publications and generally administering the programme activities.

**Ms. Carrie Gage:** Carrie is from Wellington, New Zealand. She has joined the Access to Information Programme. She has a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science and a Bachelor of Laws Degree. Before joining CHRI she worked in the Legislation Team at the Department of Corrections, a Government Department which administers all New Zealand prisons.

**Mr. Y. G. Muralidharan:** *External Collaborator, Access to Information Programme, Karnataka, India*, is a Commerce Graduate with a Post Graduate Diploma in Journalism. He has worked for the Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited for 20 years. He has established the Consumer Rights Education and Awareness Trust (CREAT), and is actively engaged in holding workshops, seminars, training and capacity building programmes for consumers, women groups, and lobbying with the local government for the implementation of RTI Act. He has also written weekly columns in many daily newspapers and conducted talks regularly on All India Radio.



**Dr. Rakesh Ranjan:** *External Collaborator, Right to Information Programme in Madhya Pradesh* is an experienced journalist and runs a small NGO called Sandhan. He is also the convenor of the Madhya Pradesh Suchana Adhikar Abhiyan a network of CSOs and activists working to spread awareness about the RTI law in that state. He conducts sensitization and awareness building workshops for government officers, CSO and media representatives.

**Mr. Prateek Pandey:** *External Collaborator, Right To Information Programme in Chhattisgarh, India*, holds a Post Graduate Diploma in Sociology and presently pursuing a Diploma in Human Rights. He has provided training to the government officers on RTI Act and is also working as a State Coordinator for the Chhattisgarh Citizens' Initiative (CGCI), a state level voluntary organization working to achieve the object of 'Good Governance'.

## **ACCESS TO JUSTICE PROGRAMME**

### **Police Reforms**

**Mr. Daniel Woods:** *Coordinator, Access to Justice Program*, has degrees in law and international politics from Flinders University in Australia. Daniel has worked for the Justice Department in Australia, and has practiced commercial law. He has also taught English in Korea and Taiwan. Daniel is responsible for the international expansion of police reforms work and brings out our well-received and content rich electronic magazine Commonwealth PoliceWatch.

**Ms. Swati Mehta:** *Consultant, Access To Justice Programme* is a lawyer with over four years' experience, who has worked on women's issues including violence against women and the criminal justice system. She has been closely associated with drafting of the NGO domestic violence Bill. She was also involved with advocating for changes in the now Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques Act, 1994, and the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956. She co-authored the CHRI Advisory Committees' 2005 CHOGM report on police accountability and published many other articles and a reports arguing for systemic reforms in policing. She is now actively involved in assisting with the drafting of the new Police Act and represents CHRI at the Police Act Drafting Committee meetings and proceedings.

**Ms. Shobha Sharma** has joined the Police Reform - India team since January 2007. She has worked in the area of violence against women and policing in NSW, Australia for the last 16 years. Shobha worked in the Crime and Social Justice Team at Police Headquarters in NSW Police for the last 6 years. Her experience within NSW Police spans the portfolios of Cultural Diversity, Crime Prevention, Family and Domestic Violence, and Youth Issues at the policy and program levels.

**Ms. Devika Prasad:** *Senior Research Assistant, Access To Justice Programme*, holds a Masters in International and Comparative Legal Studies, University of London. She co authored the CHRI Report to the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting 2005, on police accountability across the Commonwealth. She is currently involved with police reform work in both India and the Commonwealth Pacific.

Mr. Chenthilkumar Paramasivam has joined the Access to Justice Programme in March. He has earlier been associated in designing CHRI's Newsletter, brochures and other in-house productions. Previously worked with Middle East Switchgear Industries Ltd., Sharjah, UAE as a Graphic Designer and also worked as a freelance designer.

### *Chhattisgarh Project*

Mr. Sumit Kumar: *Sr. Project Assistant, Chhattisgarh*, holds a Masters in Social Work. Previously, a Research Assistant at the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, he has also assisted, at the National Human Rights Commission in developing papers on "Right to Development from third world's perspective - A study of India" and "Trafficking of Women and Children". His work responsibilities include conducting field work for Community Policing Programme, coordinating with public, police, administration, civil society and State Human Rights Commission as well as media networking at the Chhattisgarh office.

Mr. Anshuman Jha: *Sr. Project Assistant, Chhattisgarh*, holds a Masters in Human Rights, and another in Public Administration. He has also done M.Sc. and B.Sc in Mathematics. Previously worked with Fountain of Development Research and Action (FODRA) as a Programme Executive, his work responsibilities include conducting field work for Community Policing Programme, coordinating with public, police, administration, civil society and State Human Rights Commission as well as media networking at the Chhattisgarh office.

Mr. Shashank Thakur: *Part-time Consultant, Police Reforms, Chhattisgarh Project*, is a LL.M in Human Rights Law from Hidayatullah National Law University and LL.B from Pandit Ravishankar Shukla University. He conducts legal literacy workshops for both the community and the police; besides this he does networking with government agencies, civil society groups in the state.

Mr. Ashish Kumar: *Consultant*, has an LL.M degree from the National Law School of India University, Bangalore. He joined the Chhattisgarh project in July 2006.

### *Gujarat Project*

Ms. Navaz Kotwal: *Project Coordinator, Gujarat* holds a Masters in Microbiology. During the communal violence in Gujarat she rendered seminal services to the victims and worked particularly to ensure that their cases were filed and that the police took note of their complaints. She worked in the camps and ensured that victims were provided relief and rehabilitated. Since then she has been working to ensure justice for victims in one area of Gujarat. Her work involves providing legal aid, legal literacy, case management and documentation. She is also involved in the right to information work among the communities she is working with at the district levels in Gujarat. Recently she was honored with the Palkiwala Civil Liberties award in recognition of her untiring efforts and work in Gujarat.

Ms. Sonal Thakkar: *Sr. Program Assistant*, holds a masters in psychology and a post graduate diploma in NGO management. Her present work involves para-legal training and community liaison. She does a considerable amount of work in Gujarati, the local

dialect in Vadodara and is responsible for bringing out publications and pamphlets in Gujarati on both police reforms and right too information.

**Ms. Vandana Solanki:** *Programme Assistant*, has a degree in Bachelor of Science and a Masters of Social Work. She has been working extensively in urban, rural, medical and industrial set ups and agencies dealing with children. Before joining CHRI she was Project Coordinator with CARE India. She is presently assisting the Gujarat programme in the para - legal training and other community level work in Gujarat. She provides assistance with organising workshops, editing public education pamphlets and updating the website.

**Mr. Hanif Sheikh:** *Project Consultant*, is a qualified lawyer and registered advocate in Vadodara, Gujarat. He also holds a post graduate degree in Commerce and is presently assisting the Project Coordinator of our Gujarat Office with the various legal cases and work being done by CHRI.

**Mr. Prakash Oza:** *Assistant*, has joined recently and is assisting the Gujarat team in organizing all workshops, Gujarati translations, publications and other administrative tasks relating to the office in Gujarat.

#### **Prison Reforms**

**Mr. R.K. Saxena:** *Consultant* who is a retired Inspector General of Prisons. He has been a Director in the All India Committee on Prison Reforms (1980 - 83) and is at present, the Vice President of People's Union For Civil Liberties (PUCL). He has completed a full study on Prison Conditions and the Prison Visiting System in Rajasthan.

**Dr. Murli Karnam:** *Consultant*, holds a Doctorate in prisons, prisoner's rights and politics of reformation, a Post Graduate Diploma in Human Rights, and a M.A. and M.Phil in Political Science. He has worked extensively on various human rights issues with the state and NGO's in his state - Andhra Pradesh. He was project Coordinator in World Solidarity and has authored many articles and publications. He is presently coordinating the entire prisons programme in his home state.

#### **Judicial Exchange**

**Ms. Isabel da Costa:** *Consultant*, holds LL.B. and LL.M. qualifications and will be assisting CHRI with the Judicial Exchange Programme. She will be responsible for designing, organising and delivering judicial education conferences, conducting background or baseline studies related to access to justice issues among other tasks.

#### **TEAM WORKING ON CHRI'S REPORT TO CHOGM, 2007**

**Ms. Tessa Boyd-Caine** has joined CHRI as the coordinator of this year's CHOGM report on anti-terrorism legislation and policing. An Australian criminologist, she has been living in London where she is undertaking her doctorate at the London School of Economics on the preventive and indefinite detention of mentally disordered offenders. She has previously worked at the NSW Mental Health Review Tribunal, where she managed the Forensic Unit, and at the Institute of Criminology, University of Sydney.

**Mr. Arnaud Chaltin:** Arnaud Chaltin, has an LLM degree in Human Rights from the University of Leicester, UK and an M-Phil in European Union Studies from Facultes Universitaires Saint-Louis, Bruxelles - European Institute of the Université catholique de Louvain-la-neuve. He has previously worked for the International Cell of the Belgian Home Affairs Ministry; has been assistant to a Member of the Belgian Parliament. He has interned with the Belgian Red-Cross (Humanitarian Law department) and the Council of Europe. He has joined the team working on CHRI's report to CHOGM.

**Ms. Manjiri Dubey:** Manjiri has a Bachelor's in History (Honors) from and a PG Diploma in Peace and Conflict Resolution Delhi University. She also has an MA in International Relations from the University of Warwick, UK. She has joined CHRI's CHOGM team as Project Assistant.

**Ms. Gudrun Dewey** completed her Bachelor of Laws and Bachelor of Arts (with a French major) at Melbourne University, Australia, in June 2006. She then spent eight months traveling around the world, through Central and South America, Europe and India. Continuing her passion for human rights law and her commitment to social justice, Gudrun now joins CHRI on a six-month internship for the writing of the 2007 CHOGM Report.

**Ms. Sophie Earnshaw,** a British national, has a BA in English Literature and Italian and an MA in International Relations: Global Security and Development. While studying for her MA, she was a volunteer for the Refugee and Asylum Seeker Council, an NGO that provides advice and assistance to asylum seekers in the area. She worked with an Indian child rights NGO before starting work with CHRI in January 2007 as part of the team writing the CHOGM report.

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF**

**Mr. H. Nadkarni:** *Manager, Finance and Administration* with over 28 years of experience in the Corporate Sector and a Fellow Member of the Institute of Company Secretaries of India. He has overall responsibility for the Financial Management and Administration of the Delhi office and oversees budgets, proposals, liaison with funders, investments, statutory audit, travel management etc.

**Mr. N.P. Ramachandran:** *Senior Administrative Officer* who has worked with the Initiative since its inception in India. Presently in charge of recruitment, administration and matters pertaining to governing board meetings and documentation he is the institutional memory of CHRI and brings a rich and varied experience in government functioning to the organization.

**Mr. K S Rautela:** *Senior Accounts Officer*, has over 10 years experience of keeping accounts in the commercial sector and is responsible for designing and implementing systems for maintaining of accounts keeping in view the statutory/donors and individual project requirements. He oversees the audits and the day-to-day flow of finances into the programs.

**Mr. Vikas Agrawal:** *Sr. Assistant Account*, is a Commerce Graduate and is presently pursuing his studies in Chartered Accountancy. He has good knowledge of the working of

accounts and has had exposure and experience in audit of corporate houses during his articleship.

**Mr. Swayam Cheta Mohanty:** *Network Administrator* with a Master Degree in Computer Application. Best Worker Awardee for his noteworthy work as a System Executive at Deepalaya, an NGO, he looks after setting up workstations; hardware maintenance and software procurement and management; website maintenance; trouble-shooting and response to users; maintenance of server and group wise E-mail system of the office.

**Mr. Ranjan Kumar Singh:** *Executive - EDP*, is associated in designing CHRI's Newsletter, brochures and other in-house productions, and is currently responsible for designing in-house publications and liaising with the printers. He has an advanced diploma in Web & E-Commerce and vast knowledge of various other softwares and programmes for designing and publishing.

**Ms. Anshu Tejpal:** *Assistant-Information and Web Management*, who is responsible for library and documentation and handles the reception, also renders secretarial services to other staff.

**Mr. Subhash Kumar Patra:** *Office Assistant*, renders his priceless help to all office staff in routine works. He mainly handles the photocopy section of the office.

**Ms. P. Ajay Babu:** *Office Assistant*, renders his invaluable help to all office staff in all routine works. He mainly handles postage and courier department of the office.

**Ms. R. Rajeshwari:** *Office Help*, who looks after hygiene and cleanliness of the office and ensures good hospitality to the visitors.

**Mr. Sunil Kumar Chhattiya :** *Office Assistant, Chhatisgarh* provides support and coordinates closely in the community policing project in Maana police station area; he is also involved in routine office related work ; has previously worked for a World Bank Project in Raipur, India on water management.

#### ***TRUSTEE COMMITTEE OFFICE (LONDON)***

**Ms. Stephanie Aiyagari:** A lawyer with a wide interest in human rights and a recent focus on the balance between civil liberties and anti-terrorism laws as well as freedom of expression issues. She holds a Masters degree in Public Policy from the London School of Economics in addition to undergraduate degrees in Sociology and International Studies. Stephanie has lived in Europe for over seven years and worked at CHRI headquarters in India starting in 1996 through 2001 and is presently our Liaison Officer at the Trustee Office in London since January 2005. She has visited several countries in Southern and Eastern Africa as well as Japan.

**Mr. Justin Foxworthy:** A Master degree holder in International Relations and Development who has studied Philosophy, Religion and Political Science and with a keen interest in trade justice and a rights-based approach to African development is currently working on his PhD at the Institute of Commonwealth Studies. Along with providing *Administrative Assistance*, Justin works with The Place2be, a London-based

children's charity and administers the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission's alumni network on issues of governance.

#### ***AFRICA OFFICE (ACCRA)***

**Ms. Nana Oye Lithur:** *Programme Co-ordinator*, she is a Barrister and Solicitor of the Supreme Court of Republic of Ghana. She was the Director, governing Board of Internal Revenue Services of the Republic of Ghana and worked as a Senior Associate with Law Trust Company. She is the overall in charge of Ghana office and her duties include developing CHRI's program in Africa fund raising and managing the office at Ghana.

**Mr. Joseph Kingham Ochill:** *Administrative Assistant (Accounts)*, holds a Bachelors Degree in Psychology from the University of Ghana. Previously worked with Porter, University of Ghana, Joseph helps in keeping of books of accounts along with providing research assistance at the Africa office.





### 3. PROGRAMMES

CHRI believes that access to justice and access to information are matrix building blocks for flourishing democracy, targeted development, good governance and most of all, to achieve the fullest realisation of human rights. Since most Commonwealth jurisdictions are sadly deficient in these crucial areas, reforming police and improving access to information regimes is fundamental to catalysing positive changes, and have been the focus of CHRI's work for the last decade.

CHRI's right to information and police accountability programmes are supported and extended by CHRI's human rights advocacy programme, which works across both programme areas and engages with international, regional and national mechanisms, civil society across the Commonwealth and international media to raise the profile of human rights issues and violations in the Commonwealth, particularly around issues of compliance with human rights obligations. CHRI has a small media unit that works to provide visibility to its areas of focus and to the organisation, as well as develop and disseminate mass media products.

#### 3.1. ACCESS TO JUSTICE

In many Commonwealth countries, ruling regimes frequently retain systems and institutional designs more suitable to sustaining colonial power than servicing democracy. A large majority of people in the Commonwealth are poor and need the State apparatus to protect their rights. Nevertheless, few people have specialist knowledge about pivotal structures and institutions. Even where there is awareness, public calls for accountability often stop at pointing out violations or pursuing individual remedies and fall short of proactively engaging with government in knowledge based dialogues that will lead to building public opinion in favour of meaningful long term reforms in core areas of criminal justice. It has been CHRI's endeavour to build an informed constituency for reforms through capacity building, mentoring and catalytic activities that can lend assistance to nascent civil society groups often working in difficult circumstances and resource in-country change without impinging on local spaces.

##### 3.1.1. Police Reforms

The objective of the program is to create momentum for police reforms based on international good practice and principles of accountability, transparency and people's participation. In doing this, CHRI aims to bring a human rights perspective to reform agendas that largely tend to be State centric exercises.

For the last ten years, beginning in India and steadily expanding outward, CHRI's work on police reform and accountability has:

- built a strong comparative knowledge of policing across the Commonwealth through its research and publications as well as on the ground experience
- engaged the police establishment, civil society and governments in dialogue on police reform
- built informed demand for reform of the police force into a police service

- built knowledge about policing problems, practice and performance reform in all quarters in this greenfield area where there is little expertise and great need in developing countries
- built / strengthened networks in several countries of people and organisations interested in police reforms.

### Programme highlights this year:

#### *In India*

- The Government of India set up a Police Act Drafting Committee in 2005, which submitted its report in October 2006. CHRI was co-opted as the only civil society organisation invited to be involved and participated in the deliberations, drafting and editing of chapters and embedding notions of civil liberties into the Model Act.
- CHRI has prepared briefs for and intervened in public interest litigation before the Supreme Court, which directed states in 2006 to limit executive interference in the appointment and transfer of police personnel and set up police oversight mechanisms and complaints authorities. CHRI made submissions on how the police force could be made more accountable and democratic in functioning.
- CHRI has, through civil society consultations and workshops, brought police reforms onto the agenda of a number of civil society groups active at the state level, which are in turn pressurising their governments to comply with the Supreme Court guidelines on police reform and pass new police Acts in accordance with the principles of democratic policing.

#### *In Ghana*

- Advocacy around the drafting of a National Policing Policy for Ghana
- A series of regional community-police forums
- A national forum on policing in Ghana's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary year
- Legal literacy pamphlets aimed at assisting members of the community to understand and exercise their basic legal rights
- Report on police accountability in Ghana (a sibling publication to the East Africa reports and upcoming South Asia report)

#### *In East Africa*

- CHRI's six reports on policing in East Africa, including three on police accountability in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania, released in 2006 have been commended by members of civil society, police and government in the region as an extremely valuable contribution to ignite the police reform debate in the region.
- The reports - and the surrounding on-going advocacy, conferences and media work - has established CHRI as a credible resource and reliable partner for local groups on police accountability and reform in the region
- CHRI's work has dramatically increased the amount of information about policing available in the public domain in the region and so has deeply influenced both



the quality and the quantity of the discussions around police accountability and reform.

### *In South Asia*

- CHRI has begun to catalyse reform initiatives in policing beginning with a round table on Police Reform: An Exchange of Experiences from South Asia, in March 2007. The roundtable was held in New Delhi and brought together fifty representatives from India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, the Maldives and Pakistan, as well as experts from Britain and Northern Ireland. Delegates were from across government, civil society, media, human rights institutions and police organisations. The roundtable was the first time that the key players in policing from across South Asia were given the opportunity to meet and discuss the challenges, commonalities and future of policing in a South Asian context.

In India and Ghana, the presence of the offices has required the A to J programme to also include several complementary initiatives. The Indian programme includes judicial colloquia, prison reform work and demonstration projects in two Indian states (on community policing in Chhattisgarh and on strengthening community legal resources and assistance in court cases of riot victims in Gujarat).

#### **3.1.2. Prison Reform**

The objective of the programme is to institutionalise, replicate and monitor the effectiveness of changes already made in prison reform by opening up prison functioning to greater public scrutiny and to make existing systems function as they should.

The programme is currently confined to several Indian states, though learnings can be replicated in various Commonwealth jurisdictions. Recently, CHRI's prison reforms programme has targeted institutional change, through pushing for inter-segmental coordination in the criminal justice system in addition to its focus on the Prison Visiting System. CHRI has worked with the judiciary, the prosecution, lawyers and free legal aid institutions for improvement in the chaotic prisons conditions, largely resulting from over-crowding.

#### **Programme highlights this year:**

- Publication of the Telugu and English version of its study on Andhra Pradesh jails, which has become a key resource for government officials working on prison issues in the state. In Andhra Pradesh, we were impleaded in the case before the High Court on prison conditions and as a result the High Court asked the government of Andhra Pradesh to submit its report on the findings by CHRI. The government also agreed to include CHRI's draft in the forthcoming prison manual.
- CHRI's consultant has been appointed amicus curae to the State Human Rights Commission to look into death row prisoners. He made right to information

applications to get information on the 130 deaths that took place in the current year in AP.

- CHRI approached the Higher Judiciary in Rajasthan following the CrPC Amendment Act 2005 that came into force in June 07, to take up a suo moto writ for review of cases of under trial prisoners suffering prolonged incarceration for petty offences. This resulted in the release of about 800 such inmates during the period under review.

### **3.1.3. Judicial Education**

CHRI facilitates judicial exchanges focusing on access to justice for the most vulnerable. Participating judges get a rare opportunity to hear from activists and experts on pressing issues specific to their region and familiarise themselves with recent legal and procedural developments relevant to their judicial work.

#### **Programme highlights this year:**

CHRI held a workshop to sensitise judges to the use of human rights in the administration of justice for about 40 judges of Chittoor district at Tirupathi on February 24-25, 2007. The ground covered ranged from understanding the origins and international standards relating to human rights to the implementation of these in the course of trial. Custodial justice, police malpractice and judge craft was also covered.

The workshop was well received and the Chief Justice has requested CHRI to make it a series of workshops. CHRI will be conducting more such workshops in the next year.

### **3.1.4. Demonstration Project - Gujarat**

The Gujarat project focuses on the justice system. It has been underway for four years. Initially, it concentrated on securing access to justice for victims and guiding victims of violence through the criminal justice process. As it has evolved, the project has developed to include documenting the process by which justice is delivered by the Courts. This work is being completed with a view to drawing up suggestions for reform and change. The ultimate aim of the project is its own obsolescence and CHRI's withdrawal - it intends to create permanent community based legal resources that can assist the community to access the legal system and demand better systems of justice delivery.

#### **Programme highlights this year:**

- CHRI has carried out six rounds of training for a group of thirty paralegals, who now form part of its network. These paralegals now have the skills to teach in neighbouring communities. They also staff citizen's advice centres, produce law and rights based newsletters and publications and create legal and human rights awareness in the broader community.
- In June 2006, CHRI organised a street play on the right to information. Six shows were staged over two days. Administrative officials, police, local lawyers and the community all watched the play together. Right to information pamphlets

printed in Gujarati were distributed during the shows. The play has been recorded and the footage is being used as public education material.

- CHRI has documented five case studies where the right to information was used to change the processes of the local administration.
- The Project Coordinator was awarded the International Chevening Fellowship, which allowed her to complete further human rights study in the United Kingdom. After her study in the United Kingdom, the Coordinator was invited to present on the project at the Rockefeller Foundation's Study Centre at Bellagio, Italy. CHRI's legal consultant, Mr Hanif Sheikh was awarded the Ford Foundation Fellowship to pursue a Masters programme in Human Rights Law at any university of his choice.

### **3.1.5. Demonstration Project - Chhattisgarh**

CHRI's work on policing in Chhattisgarh has several linked components. These include police training, building public awareness of police functioning and civil liberties and capacity building of the state Human Rights Commission. The more innovative components of the project lie in demonstrating how police-public cooperation can be created and the value this cooperation has for both public security and the protection of civil liberties.

#### **Programme highlights this year:**

- The Chhattisgarh team has taken the lead on building momentum around police reforms in Chattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh in the light of the Supreme Court directives. They have been able to sensitize and bring the civil society of Chhattisgarh in a common platform to advocate as well act as a pressure group for a new police act and implementation of the Supreme Court directives. For instance, two workshops with civil society and media were organized in February at Raipur and a memorandum from civil society and media was submitted to the chief minister, the home minister, the chief secretary and the director general of police of the state.
- The team has been invited by different NGOs working in this sector across India like MSSeva of Uttar Pradesh, Prakriti of Maharashtra to provide training to their workers & community leaders on legal literacy & community policing.
- CHRI has been invited by the Chhattisgarh police to organize trainings for their police officers at the Chhattisgarh police training schools. Similar invitations came from the West Bengal police, the Goa police and the Punjab police.
- CHRI Chhattisgarh office was invited to Pakistan to share our Community policing model, processes and outcomes at a South Asia conference organised by Rozan, an NGO based in Islamabad and National Police Bureau-Pakistan on 19-20 March. Unfortunately, staff could not go because of visa problems.

### 3.2. ACCESS TO INFORMATION

Promoting a guaranteed right of people to access government held information through policy level interventions, engaging strategic constituencies - like parliamentarians, lawyers, media, civil society - building capacity, and larger public education has been a key area of work of CHRI.

For more than eight years, CHRI's access to information programme has in general:

- assisted member states and international bodies to develop and implement strong right to information laws, while more broadly promoting information disclosure policies.
- critiqued right to information Bills and provided substantial drafting inputs into proposed legislation to ensure the law is in conformity with international best practice
- provided technical advice/assistance with implementation of RTI laws
- resourced right to information workshops throughout the Commonwealth
- built right to information into the agendas of civil society groups, specially large-networked groups working directly with communities on the ground
- built expertise and civil society leadership by hosting interns from partner organisations and the media who are in / assume key positions in the RTI movement in their respective countries
- developed select partner organisations into dedicated local hubs for right to information
- published - a) detailed research papers and guides examining right to information and information disclosure
- built over 100 right to information specific contacts throughout all regions of the Commonwealth. CHRI has access to institutions and intellectual resources in all jurisdictions.

#### Programme highlights this year:

##### *United Kingdom*

- CHRI made a strong submission to the UK Department of Constitutional Affairs urging them to desist from making amendments to the FOI Act that would have the effect of discouraging potential requestors seeking information in public interest. Thanks to vocal opposition from RTI advocates based in the UK and abroad these harmful amendments have not yet come through.

##### *Africa*

- CHRI's analyses of government FOI Bill in Kenya and recommendations for bringing their draft legislation up to internationally agreed standards has been taken on board by the relevant departments and draftspersons, who are working on our suggestions to strengthen these Bills. CHRI's recommendations have also been used by civil society advocates to inform consultations with government on how the Bill should be improved.
- In Swaziland CHRI's analysis has resulted in an invitation to become actively involved in improving the drafting of the Swaziland Government's draft Freedom of Information Bill with the Commonwealth Secretariat and Government.

- CHRI was invited to assist senior officers of various departments of the Ugandan government to chalk out implementation strategies. Undertook two separate training sessions for Government officials in Uganda - in order to assist in implementation of the Ugandan *Access to Information Act 2005* (September 2006, February 2007). CHRI presented a detailed road map which was welcomed by the Department of Information. CHRI was also requested by the Army spokesperson's office to help reconcile their constituting law with the requirements of the new transparency legislation.
- CHRI is a member of the Africa wide coalition for Freedom of Information
- CHRI Africa spearheaded the formation of a coalition on right to information in Ghana with membership from a range of civil society, media and government organisations
- CHRI was recently invited to become one of only two international organisations to join in the Tanzanian civil society coalition for the right to information.
- The team provided detailed comments on the draft model law prepared by the head office of the Media Institute of Southern Africa (MISA) and hosted exposure visits for professionals from MISA, which has asked CHRI to facilitate workshops with its chapters on the technical aspects of a right to information law and how to engage with government to improve draft laws and policies.

#### *Pacific*

- CHRI has engaged with key regional institutions, including the Pacific Forum Secretariat (ForSec) and promoted the right to information to (and with), donors, civil society organisations, the media and governments (e.g. Pacific Centre for Public Integrity (PCPI), UNDP's Pacific Sub Regional Centre (UNDP-SPRO), Regional Rights Resource Team (RRRT), Pacific Islands News Agency, UNESCO's regional office in Samoa, AusAid Law and Justice Advisor/ Legislation Advisor, Transparency International in Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu, PNG Ombudsman and the Media Council, Government of Solomon Islands).

#### *South Asia*

- In March 2007, CHRI was invited to co-facilitate a Right to Information seminar in Colombo for Sri Lankan and Pakistani Civil Society Organisations. CHRI gave a presentation on the best practice provisions of a RTI law and facilitated a SWOT analysis of the Pakistan Ordinance and Sri Lankan draft Bill. This has enabled us to broaden and solidify our diverse networks with Sri Lankan and Pakistani civil society.
- For the past two years CHRI has worked with its Bangladesh partner *Manusher Jonno* Foundation to campaign for a guaranteed right to information law. Manusher Jonno is an operational foundation that partners with over 200 community based organizations to promote good governance. Hosted exposure visits for professionals from Bangladesh in October 2006. In 2007, Manusher Jonno translated CHRI's seminal Right to Information report "Open Sesame: Looking for the Right to Information in The Commonwealth" in Bangla and the publication is being disseminated widely amongst civil society networks. CHRI also plans to translate and disseminate its basic right to information pamphlet into Bangla.
- To build on the momentum for RTI advocacy in the region, CHRI has recently developed an internet list serve for South Asian Advocates known as 'SARTIAN' - the South Asia Right to Information Advocates Network'.



## *India*

India is the only country in South Asia that has a fully enacted Right to Information law. CHRI played a lead role at every stage in the evolution of India's Right to Information Act, 2005.

### **Officer Training**

- The team developed an informal arrangement with the Punjab State Information Commission to assist with training of officials of various public authorities in Punjab. Four such workshops were conducted and recommendations for improving implementation developed and submitted to the Government, the Information Commission and the nodal department for implementing the Act.
- The State Information Commission's recommendation to the Punjab government has helped CHRI become the organisation of choice for training government officers in various departments in Punjab.
- CHRI also resourced officer training workshops for the Uttarakhand Academy of Administration, the UP Housing and Development Board, Steel Authority of India and the PowerGrid Corporation of India.

### **NGO Capacity Building**

- On the 12<sup>th</sup> of October 2006 - the first anniversary of the RTI Act - CHRI organised a national convention to develop strategies for resisting amendments to the RTI Act in Delhi. This convention was attended by close to 60 representatives of civil society organisations from 17 states. Participants agreed to work together to build public opinion in their own jurisdictions using a variety of methods to thwart any move to amend the RTI Act in future.
- As part of its strategy to introduce awareness about RTI in large CSO networks the team has developed collaborative relationships with the Church's Auxiliary for Social Action (CASA) and the DfID supported Poorest Areas Civil Society (PACS) partners. A state level capacity building workshop held in Bhopal in April with CASA partners led to the formation of a state level task force to educate people about the law and closely monitor its implementation in Madhya Pradesh. This task force will work with the MP Suchana Adhikar Abhiyan which we have nurtured over the years. Activists of the Abhiyan are in great demand in the districts for providing training to officers and assisting people with their information requests and appeals
- Conducted specialised trainings for civil society linking RTI to various development issues eg. environment, HIV-AIDS, NREGS
- The young advocates that we trained in Nagaland in 2005 are holding workshops and public awareness events with virtually no major funding support from any organisation. Three members of this team were invited by the Kohima Administrative Training Institute to resource an officer training workshop. In West Bengal the CSOs which we trained in 2006 are holding district level events to spread awareness about the Act

### 3.3. HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCACY

#### Programme highlights this year:

- The Commonwealth Human Rights Network (CHRN), a network of human rights activists that CHRI coordinates, now represents 377 organisations, including several from the African countries and small states of the Commonwealth. CHRN has provided its members on a nearly daily basis with capacity building tools and mechanisms to strengthen their advocacy and weekly news updates. CHRI received several letters of appreciation (African Centre for Democracy and Human Rights Studies, Civil Liberties Committee, TUFHA, who received CHRN materials form from the Gambia based The Association of NGOs,) for the information it sends out to members of CHRN. The Association for the Prevention of Torture thanked CHRN for circulating information on their campaign.
- Made a submission to the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group following the December 2006 military Coup in Fiji. The decision of the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group was on similar lines as CHRI's submission.
- Published an article on UN voting patterns of Commonwealth members in print and online media in parts of the Commonwealth. This is to be followed by a full report on the human rights performance of the Commonwealth members of the UN Human Rights Council. A press release was made on March 12, Commonwealth Day, pointing out the poor human rights performance of representatives of the Commonwealth in the UN General Assembly, reflecting voting patterns that were working against fundamental political values of the Commonwealth enshrined in the Harare Declaration to which all CW countries are committed.
- Prepared a report on Human Rights Defenders, which will be released soon and shared with the members of the CHRN. The report is a very useful tool, designed for grass root and medium size organisations to assist them with identifying human rights defenders and put in place mechanisms for their protection.
- Advocated directly with Commonwealth agencies and at Commonwealth meetings for greater priority on human rights issues and contributing to official Commonwealth efforts to advance human rights standards.

#### **CHRI's report to CHOGM 2007**

CHRI makes a report on an issue of current human rights concern to the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, held every two years. CHRI's report to CHOGM 2007 will study the trend where increasing fear of terrorism across the globe has led states to enact anti-terrorism legislation that have enhanced police discretion, increased police powers and diminished police accountability even as they have reduced traditional protections of due process.

#### **Campaign against the proposed Foreign Contribution Regulation Bill**

Government has introduced a Foreign Contribution Regulation Bill in Parliament in December 2006, which could have harsh implications for NGOs who receive foreign money and a knock on effect on those who do not, but are intellectually resourced by them. As a member of Voluntary Action Network of India (VANI), CHRI has been working vigorously to build awareness of the frailties of the Bill and to rally people around it. CHRI has analysed the bill, made written submissions to the parliament standing committee, made representations to the government, international agencies.

### 3.4. MEDIA ADVOCACY

CHRI has a small, dedicated media unit that supports all programme areas.

#### Programme highlights this year:

- Backgrounders were sent to the international media around the Right to Know day, Africa day, International Anti-Corruption day and to the Indian media for campaign against the proposed Foreign Contribution Regulation Bill, to publicise the Supreme Court directives on police reforms and to campaign against amendments to the RTI Act in Jammu and Kashmir.
- Around 50 CHRI articles were published in the last year, and several of them were carried in multiple places, some in over 30 places. CHRI has been quoted in more than 150 places in India and Commonwealth. It has issued media releases around important controversial issues in addition to interviews and panel discussions on television and radio.
- CHRI's radio programme on the right to information in Hindi 'Ab to hum jaanenge' had repeat broadcasts on public demand in several Hindi speaking states in India in 2006-07. We have received more than 250 requests for our publications and assistance in dealing with information requests and appeals where requests were denied.
- CHRI has lent support to the campaign efforts of partners in the voluntary sector - for e.g. the media unit assisted Voluntary Action Network of India (VANI) to create a campaign against the new FCR Bill.
- As a way of keeping track of the impact of our work we have been collecting and disseminating success stories of people who used RTI effectively to redress a public grievance. These success stories and a few others sourced from RTI discussion groups have been used to develop a calendar for 2007 with RTI as the main theme.

### 3.5. Africa Office

#### Programme Highlights this year:

- **African Freedom of Information Centre- Interim Steering Committee Meeting**

CHRI held a two day workshop for the Interim Steering Committee of the Africa Freedom of Information Centre. In attendance were representatives from Ghana (CHRI), Nigeria (OSIWA and MRA), Kenya, Senegal and Uganda. The Steering Committee was elected as an outcome of the Regional Workshop on Freedom of Information in Africa held in Lagos Nigeria in 2006.

The purpose of the meeting was to develop the terms of reference for the African Freedom of Information Centre, the meeting also identified framework for operations of the centre and fundraising strategies. The meeting was concluded with the agreement that the centre be registered and hosted by Media Rights Agenda in Nigeria.



- **RTI Coalition Workshop**

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2007, the Right to Information Coalition met with the International Partners from Open Society Justice Initiative (OSJI) and Media Rights Agenda (MRA) in Accra in order to draft an advocacy strategic plan for the Coalition to ensure that the Right to Information Bill is passed into law in Ghana. At the end of the workshop a concise advocacy strategy and work plan was developed to help the coalition to push for the legislation of the RTI Bill in Ghana. The Principal State Attorney and Senior Clerk Constitutional and Legal Committee, Parliament presented and challenges and opportunities were discussed. A concise advocacy strategy and work plan was developed to help the coalition push for the legislation of the RTI Bill in Ghana. The Coalition also engaged in a discussion about key criteria to be adopted concerning who to join to the Coalition.

- **Access to Justice**

Organised public-police forums, in different regions, bring together communities, senior police officers and victims of police misconduct to engage in an open dialogue around policing in the community. This process has allowed the police to understand the community's experience of policing and also has helped the community to understand the challenges faced by officers working in a difficult environment. The workshops have worked to bring the community and the police much closer together, improving policing for the community and making police work more effective.

Embarked on a campaign to seek justice in the case of the killings and disappearance of 50 West Africans that occurred in the Gambia in July 2005

Researched and advocated against instant justice, highlighting the rising incidence of instant justice as a threat to peace and security in the community.

Advocated against forced evictions, for instance CHRI undertook a fact-finding mission on the eviction of residents of the Digya National Game Reserve, a predominantly fishing area in the Afram Plains, held a press conference and drew attention to the eviction.

- CHRI's work and views have been extensively covered in both the print and electronic media in Ghana

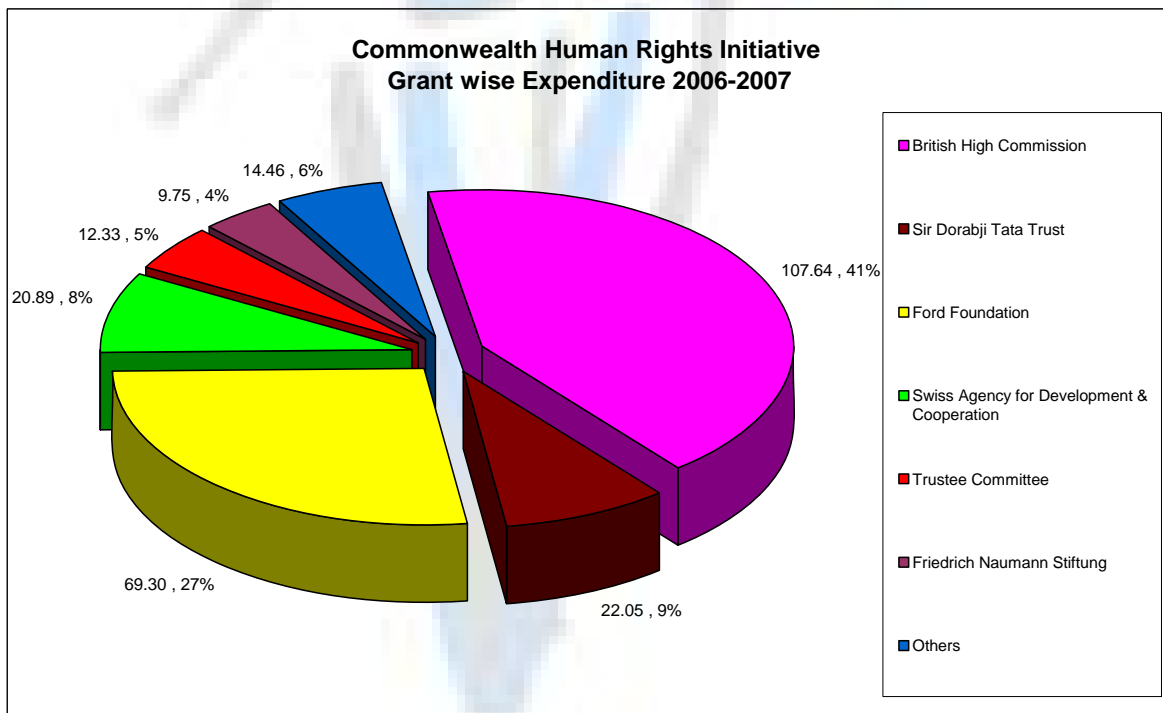
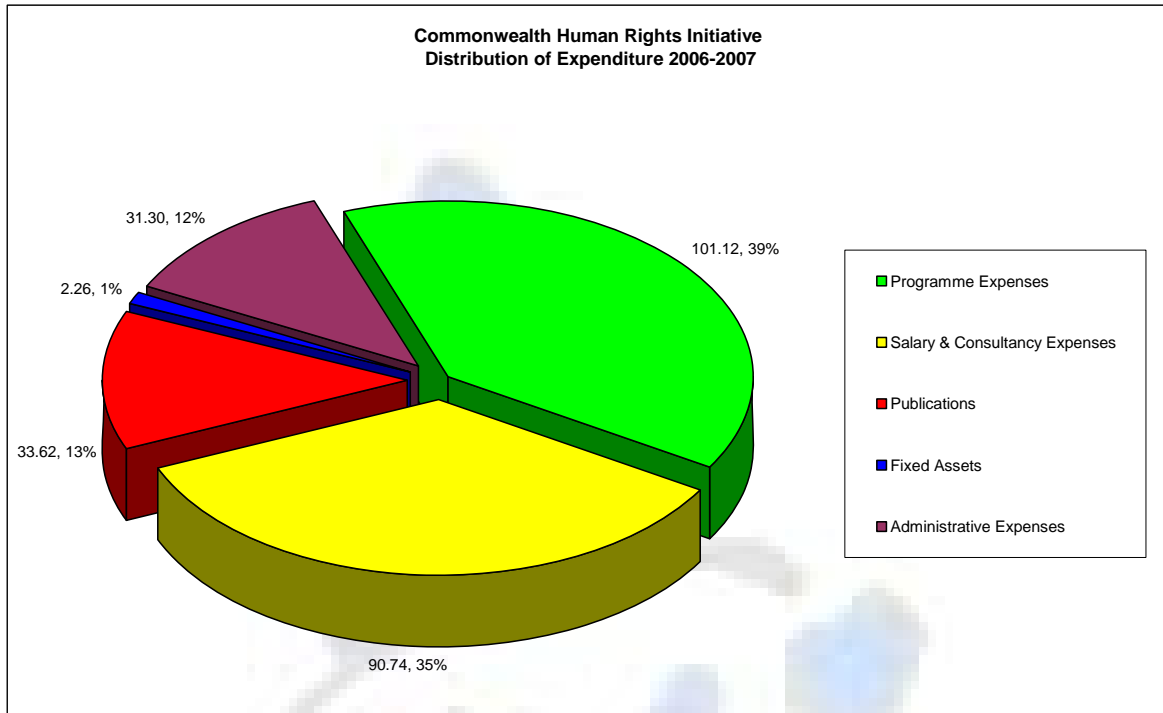
### **3.6. London Office**

#### **Programme highlights this year:**

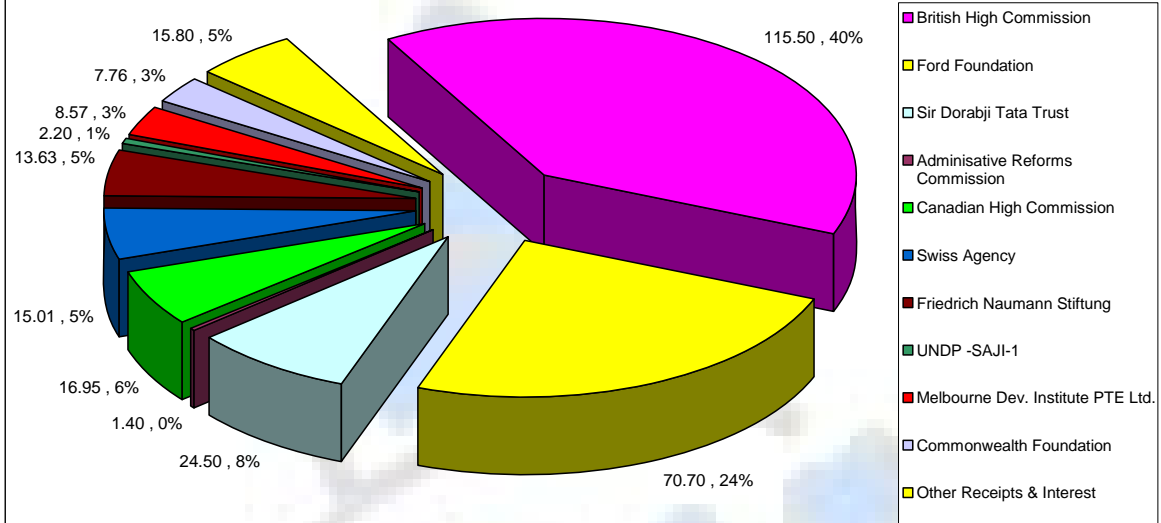
- Participated in a seminar at the Institute for Commonwealth Studies where scholars in a research project assessed the international advocacy activities of non-government organisations, including CHRI. Richard Bourne, former CHRI Trustee and former head of the Commonwealth Policy Studies Unit, presented preliminary findings on CHRI after having visited the New Delhi office in February 2006. Funding for the research was provided by the Economic and Social Research Council.

- In May CHRI staff attended a Civil Society Consultation at the Commonwealth Secretariat. The aims were two-fold: to inform civil society about processes leading up to CHOGM 2007 so that they can participate more fully; and to generate new ideas about how civil society can collaborate with the Secretariat and foundation to improve the latter's programmes. CHRI suggested the formation of an ad hoc group to work with the Foundation to improve communication and consultation with civil society organisations leading up to the next CHOGM. The Commonwealth Foundation accepted this idea and CHRI agreed to join the ad hoc group.
- In June a short piece on CHRI was submitted for the annual report of the Institute of Commonwealth Studies and in March CHRI hosted an information table at the Open Evening for supporters, alumni and prospective post-graduate students at the Institute.
- Representatives of the Political Affairs Division of the Commonwealth Secretariat briefed the London office and Commonwealth Policy Studies Unit on Commonwealth activities in the Maldives. Courtesy calls were also made on the Human Rights Unit and Civil Society Liaison Manager at the Commonwealth Secretariat.
- In July a memorial service for Beko Ransome-Kuti, former CHRI Advisory Commission member, was held at the Royal Commonwealth Society, organised by Richard Bourne.
- In July the Director met with the Head of the Human rights Unit at the Commonwealth Secretariat, the Director of the Commonwealth Foundation, and with the Political Affairs Division. The Commonwealth Human Rights Forum, Uganda, and the Maldives were the main topics of discussion.
- In the build up to CHOGM staff at London participated in the advocacy around the expert group on policing and CSO consultations held at the Secretariat (November 2006). In February 2007 staff attended discussions at the Commonwealth Secretariat toward forming the Commonwealth National Human Rights Institution (NHRI) Forum.
- In November 2006 the Liaison Officer presented a speech on a panel launching the International Financial Institutions Transparency Charter launch. As follow-up in December the UK office took part in a Global Transparency Initiative networking meeting sponsored by the One World Trust. This group undertakes joint advocacy efforts to promote greater openness and accountability among multi-lateral financial institutions. In February 2007 Office Staff participated in additional meetings with Global Transparency Initiative members, Open Society and Justice Initiative, Bretton Woods Project, regarding collaboration on Access to Information in the United Kingdom.
- In March 2007 the Liaison Officer spoke on the compliance of Commonwealth countries with human rights obligations, particularly the thirteen Commonwealth states newly elected to the Human Rights Council at the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission's annual alumni conference.

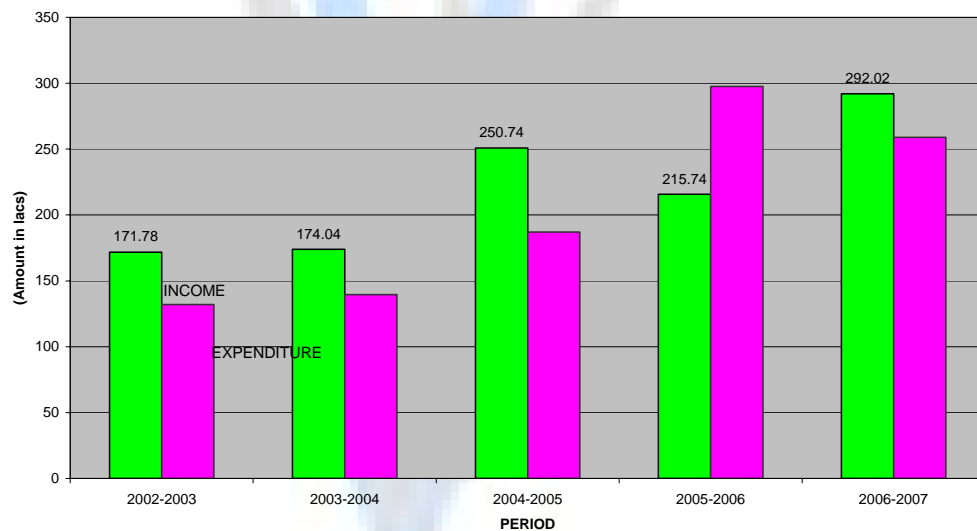
## FINANCIALS



### Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative Grant wise Receipts 2006-2007



### Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative Income and Expenditure



## MAJOR FUNDERS

### Head Quarters, India

British High Commission  
Commonwealth Foundation  
Ford Foundation  
Friedrich Naumann Stiftung  
FCO Challenge Fund  
New Zealand Agency for International Development  
Sir Dorabji Tata Trust  
Swiss Agency for Development & Cooperation

### London office

Ford Foundation

### Africa Office, Accra

British Foreign and Commonwealth Office  
Ford Foundation



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Website: [www.humanrightsinitiative.org](http://www.humanrightsinitiative.org)

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- The Right to Information and Panchayati Raj Institutions: Himachal Pradesh as a Case Study [ [English](#) & [Hindi](#) ] (2006), written by Sohini Paul and edited by Venkatesh Nayak, CHRI.
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- [Information Commissions: Roles & Responsibilities](#) (2006), written by Charmaine Rodrigues and edited by Maja Daruwala, CHRI.
- [Dealing with Third Parties: Applications and Appeals](#) (2006), written by Charmaine Rodrigues and edited by Maja Daruwala and Venkatesh Nayak, CHRI.
- The Right to Information and Panchayati Raj Institutions: Chhattisgarh as a Case Study [ [English](#) & [Hindi](#) ] (2006), written by Sohini Paul and edited by Charmaine Rodrigues, CHRI.
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- [Missing - the Model Police Bill](#) by Shobha Sharma, The Tribune, 21 March 2007.
- [RTI changes the life in a village](#) by Maja Daruwala and Navaz Kotwal, The Tribune, 21 January 2007.
- [RTI in J&K: A distant dream!](#) by Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat, Kashmir Times, 08 January 2007.
- [The Amendment to RTI Act has been stopped due to public pressure](#) by Maja Daruwala and Venkatesh Nayak, Indian Voter, December 2006.
- [International Anti Corruption Day: Using Freedom of Information in Fiji's fight against corruption](#) by Claire Cronin, CHRI.
- [Institutional denial of rights](#) by Rajan Kumar, The Hitvada, 10 December 2006.
- [Institutional denial of human rights](#) by Shashank Thakur, Chhattisgarh, 10 December 2006.
- [New initiatives in police reforms](#) by Sumit Kumar, Chhattisgarh Editorial, 30 November 2006.
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- [Seize the opportunity](#) by Devika Prasad & Caroline Avanzo, The Hindu, 05 November 2006.
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- [Fight to Information](#) by Maja Daruwala & Navaz Kotwal, The Indian Express, 30 October 2006.
- [RTI: Tripura shows the way](#) by Venkatesh Nayak, The Tribune, 29 October 2006.
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- [Will government defy cynics, make good on police reform?](#) by Maja Daruwala, The Indian Express, 09 October 2006.
- [Reform the cop: Tempering autonomy with accountability](#) by Swati Mehta, The Tribune, 08 October 2006.
- [RTI will improve governance](#) by Indra Jeet Mistry, The Tribune, 01 October 2006.



- [The Ujjain Shocker](#) by G.P. Joshi, The Indian Express, 09 September 2006.
- [The Kolkata Gazette-aka The Elusive Gazelle](#) by Venkatesh Nayak, The Statesman, 04 September 2006.
- [Plight of human rights panels](#) by Mandeep Tiwana, The Tribune, 03 September 2006.
- [File notings: Centre shouldn't tinker with RTI Act](#) by Maja Daruwala and Venkatesh Nayak, The Tribune, 20 August 2006.
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- [Police Accountability: A Right Not a Privilege](#) by Ruth Duncan, Ghanaian Chronicle, 11 July 2006.
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- [Prisoners to state apathy](#) by Maja Daruwala, Indian Express, 24 June 2006.
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- [Final statement - Arusha police accountability roundtable](#), June 2006.
- [Media Release](#) and [Concluding Statement & Recommendation](#) of East Africa Roundtable Conference on Police Reforms by CHRI, 13 June 2006.
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- [Namibia: UN Human Rights Council: Just a New Name?](#) by Andrew Galea Debono, AllAfrica.com, 19 May 2006.
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- [The UN Human Rights Council: Just a New Name?](#) by Andrew Galea Debono, Legalbrief Africa, 15 May 2005.
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**Audit Report under section 12A(b) of the Income Tax Act, 1961**

We have examined the consolidated balance sheet of Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative as at 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2007 and the income and expenditure account for the year ended on that date which are in agreement with the books of account maintained by the said Society.

We have obtained all the information and explanations which to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary for the purposes of the audit. In our opinion, proper books of account have been kept by the Head Office of the above named Society visited by us so far as appears from our examination of the books, and proper returns adequate for the purposes of audit have been received from branches/offices not visited by us subject to the comments given below :

In our opinion and to the best of our information, and according to the explanations given to us, the said accounts give a true and fair view:-

- (i) in the case of the balance sheet, of the state of affairs of the above named Society as at 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2007 and
- (ii) in the case of the income and expenditure account, of the surplus of its accounting year ending on 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2007.

The prescribed particulars are annexed hereto.



for A W A T A R & C O.  
Chartered Accountants

*Sanjay Agrawal*

( SANJAY AGRAWAL )  
Partner

Place : New Delhi

Date : 19/07/2007



**ANNEXURE**  
**STATEMENT OF PARTICULARS**  
COMMONWEALTH HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVE, NEW DELHI  
ASSESSMENT YEAR 2007-08

**I. Application of income for charitable or religious purposes**

1. Amount of income of the previous year applied to charitable or religious purposes in India during that year. Rs. 2,52,18,205/-
2. Whether the trust/institution\* has exercised the option under clause (2) of the Explanation to section 11 (1)? If so, the details of the amount of income deemed to have been applied to charitable or religious purposes in India during the previous year. NO
3. Amount of income accumulated or set apart\*/finally set apart for application to charitable or religious purposes, to the extent it does not exceed 15 per cent of the income derived from property held under trust wholly\*/in part only for such purposes. Rs. 39,88,497/-
4. Amount of income eligible for exemption under section 11(1)(c) [Give details] NIL
5. Amount of income, in addition to the amount referred to in item 3 above, accumulated or set apart for specified purposes under section 11(2) NIL
6. Whether the amount of income of mentioned in item 5 above has been invested or deposited in the manner laid down in section 11(2)(b)? If so, the details thereof. Not Applicable
7. Whether any part of the income in respect of which an option was exercised under clause (2) of the Explanation to section 11(1) in any earlier year is deemed to be income of the previous year under section 11(B)? If so, the details thereof. NIL
8. Whether, during the previous year, any part of income accumulated or set apart for specified purposes under section 11(2) in any earlier year :- -----
  - a. has been applied for purposes other than charitable or religious purposes or has ceased to be accumulated or set apart for application thereto, or NO
  - b. has ceased to remain invested in any security referred to in section 11(2)(b)(1) or deposited in any account referred to in section 11(2)(b)(1) or section 11(2) (b) (iii) or NO
  - c. has not been utilised for purposes for which it was accumulated or set apart during the period for which it was to be accumulated or set apart, or in the year immediately following the expiry thereof? If so, details thereof. NO





ii. Application or use of income or property for the benefit of persons referred to in section 13 [3].

9. Whether any part of the income or property of the \*trust/institution was lent, or continues to in section 13(3) [hereinafter referred to in this Annexure as such person]? If so, give details of the amount, rate of interest charged and the nature of security, if any. NIL
10. Whether any land, building or other property of the \*trust/institution was made, or continued to be made, available for the use of any such person during the previous year? If so, give details of the property and the amount of rent or compensation charged, if any. NO
11. Whether any payment was made to any such person during the previous year by way of salary allowance or otherwise? If so, give details. NO
12. Whether the services of the \*trust/institution were made available to any such person during the previous year? If so, give details thereof together with remuneration or compensation received, if any. NIL
13. Whether any share, security, or other property was purchased by or on behalf of the \*trust/institution during the previous year from any such person? If so, give details thereof together with the consideration paid. NIL
14. Whether any share, security, or other property was sold by or on behalf of the \*trust/institution during the previous year to any such person? If so, the details thereof together with the consideration received. NIL
15. Whether any income or property of the \*trust/institution was diverted during the previous year in favour of any such person? If so, give details thereof together with the amount of income or value of property so diverted. NIL
16. Whether the income or property of the \*trust/institution was used or applied during the previous year for the benefit of any such person in any other manner? If so, give details. NIL

III. Investment held at any time during the previous year(s) in concerns in which persons referred to in section 13(3) have a substantial interest.

Sl. No	Name and address of the concern	whether the concern is a company No. and class of shares held	Nominal value of the investment	Income from the investment	Whether the amount in Col. 4 exceeded 5% of the capital of the concern during the previous year-say. Yes/No
1	2	3	4	5	6
	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
Total					



For AWATAR & CO.  
Chartered Accountants

*Sanjay Agrawal*  
( SANJAY AGRAWAL )  
Partner

Place : New Delhi

Date : 19/07/2007

# COMMONWEALTH HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVE



## CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET AS ON MARCH 31, 2007

LIABILITIES				ASSETS			
Previous Year	Particulars	Amount Rs.		Previous Year	Particulars	Amount Rs.	
22,877,920	<b>General Fund</b>			2,663,780	<b>Fixed Assets</b> (As per Schedule-1)	2,846,600	
	Balance as per last year	22,877,920					
	Add: Fixed Assets purchased during the year	225,570					
					<b>Current Assets</b>		
	Add: Excess of Income over Expenditure	3,945,747	27,049,237		<b>a) Fixed Deposits</b>		
650,000	<b>Special Project Funds u/s 11 (2)</b>			2,991,575	- HDFC Bank	2,894,508	
	Balance as per last year	650,000		9,028,622	- State Bank of India	9,597,833	
	Less: Utilised during the year (As per Schedule - 3)	650,000		6,223,581	- ICICI Bank Ltd	10,289,473	22,781,814
					<b>b) Bank Balance</b>		
					In accounts with :		
				2,233,559	- State Bank of India	409,129	
				157,032	- Bank of India	292,149	
				309,242	- HDFC Bank	453,297	
					- Bank of India - UNDP	162,022	1,316,597
<b>23,527,920</b>	<b>Total c/f</b>		<b>27,049,237</b>	<b>23,607,391</b>	<b>Total c/f</b>		<b>26,945,011</b>



LIABILITIES				ASSETS			
Previous Year	Particulars		Amount Rs.	Previous Year	Particulars		Amount Rs.
23,527,920	Total b/f		27,049,237	23,607,391	Total b/f		26,945,011
	<b><u>Current Liabilities :</u></b>				<b><u>c) Cash Balances</u></b>		
883,164	Sundry creditors for expenses		1,138,780	45,292	- Cash in hand	58,163	
				16,307	- Foreign currency in hand	205,351	263,514
				17,360	<b><u>d) Tax Deducted at Source</u></b>		49,233
					<b><u>e) Sundry Debtors</u></b>		
				724,734	Receivable in- cash or in kind ( considered good )		930,259
<b>24,411,084</b>	<b>Total</b>		<b>28,188,017</b>	<b>24,411,084</b>	<b>Total</b>		<b>28,188,017</b>

As per our report of even date



For Awatar & Co  
Chartered Accountants

*Sanjay Agrawal*

(Sanjay Agrawal)  
Partner M. N. 087786



For and on behalf of Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative

*Chairperson & Treasurer*

Chairperson & Treasurer

*Director*

Director

Place : New Delhi

Date : 19/07/2007



# COMMONWEALTH HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVE



## CONSOLIDATED INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2007

Previous year	Expenditure	Amount Rs.	Previous Year	Income	Amount Rs.
	<b>Grantwise Expenses-As per Schedule-2</b>			<b>Grant Receipts</b>	
3,553,342	British High Commission - Effective Implementation of RTI Laws in India	7,084,811 ✓	836,356	British High Commission - Effective Implementation of RTI Laws in India	7,854,552 ✓
4,206,685	British High Commission - Access to Justice Gujarat	3,679,458 ✓	4,457,623	British High Commission - Access to Justice - Gujarat	3,531,538 ✓
1,088,404	British High Commission- National Conference on RTI	-	980,776	British High Commission - National Conference on Right to Information	163,650 ✓
6,215	British Council - Publication of Poverty Report	-	50,340	British Council - Publication of Poverty Report	-
16,965	Commonwealth of Australia - Fiji Justice Sector Programme	-	457,058	Commonwealth of Australia - Fiji Justice Sector Programme	-
1,201,426	Commonwealth Foundation- Police Workshop in Ghana & HRF Meeting	-	392,850	Commonwealth Foundation - Police Workshop in Ghana and HRF meeting	775,500 ✓
-	Canadian High Commission-Radio Series on Police Public Interface	39,727 ✓	-	Canadian High Commission-Radio Series on Police Public Interface	1,695,000 ✓
561,826	Friedrich Naumann Stiftung - Building awareness on the Right to Information	974,945 ✓	561,826	Friedrich Naumann Stiftung - Building awareness on the Right to Information	1,362,783 ✓
2,951,270	Ford Foundation - New York - Institutional Grant	6,846,440 ✓	5,476,150	Ford Foundation - New York - Institutional Grant	5,730,515 ✓
3,736,358	Ford Foundation - India-Constitutional Reforms	84,180 ✓	-	Ford Foundation - India-Constitutional Reforms	1,339,470 ✓
2,463,170	Swiss Agency for Develop. & Cooperation - Police Reforms - Chattisgarh	2,088,840 ✓	1,955,000	Swiss Agency for Develop. & Cooperation - Police Reforms - Chattisgarh	1,500,538 ✓
-	Melbourne Dev. Institute PTE Ltd.- RTI module for Pacific Media	436,772 ✓	-	Melbourne Dev. Institute PTE Ltd.- RTI module for Pacific Media	857,152 ✓
-	Administrative Reforms Commission- Roundtable on Policing and Public Order	100,000 ✓	-	Administrative Reforms Commission- Roundtable on Policing and Public Order	140,000
7,505,412	Sir Dorabji Tata Trust - Institutional Grant	2,205,245 ✓	2,500,000	Sir Dorabji Tata Trust - Institutional Grant	2,450,000 ✓
905,861	Trustee Committee - East Africa Project	1,233,040 ✓	2,046,180	Trustee Committee- Police Reforms - East Africa	-
138,797	Ministry of Home Affairs - Human Rights Education	355,000 ✓	455,000	Ministry of Home Affairs - Human Rights Education	-
<b>28,335,731</b>	<b>Total c/f</b>	<b>25,128,458</b>	<b>20,169,159</b>		<b>27,400,698</b>



Previous year	Expenditure	Amount Rs.	Previous Year	Income	Amount Rs.
28,335,731	Total b/f	25,128,458	20,169,159	Total b/f	27,400,698
151,334	INTERIGHTS - Judicial Colloquium	23,970 ✓	101,667	National Commission for Women - Study of Women in Custodial Establishments	
-	United Nations Development Programme - SAJI-1	64,284 ✓	-	United Nations Development Programme - SAJI-1	220,000 ✓
111,859	NZ Agency for International Development - Right to Information programme-Pacific	361,787 ✓			
71,659	Other Expenses	64,136 ✓			
307,138	Trustee Committee- AC Meeting	-			
<b>28,977,721</b>		<b>25,642,635</b>		<b>Other Receipts</b>	
8,400,000	Less : Amount utilised out of Special Project fund u/s 11 (2) as per schedule - 3	650,000 ✓	1,206,568	Interest on :	
775,569	Fixed Assets transferred to Balance Sheet out of Grants- As per contra Schedule 1		81,173	- Fixed Deposits ( TDS - 33697+1361)	1,329,426 ✓
103,424	Loss on sale of Assets		9,793	- Saving Accounts	78,763 ✓
			6,085	Miscellaneous Receipts	62,408 ✓
117,731	Excess of Income over Expenditure transferred to General Fund	3,945,747		Sale of books	108,917 ✓
<b>21,574,445</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>29,200,212</b>	<b>21,574,445</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>29,200,212</b>

As per our report of even date



**For Awatar & Co  
Chartered Accountants**

*Sanjay Agrawal*

**(Sanjay Agrawal)  
Partner M. N. 087786**



**For and on behalf of Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative**

*[Signature]*

**Chairperson & Treasurer**

*[Signature]*

**Director**

Place : New Delhi  
Date : 19/07/2007



# COMMONWEALTH HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVE



## CONSOLIDATED RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2007

Receipts	Amount Rs.	Payments	Amount Rs.
<b>Opening Balance :</b>			
HDFC BANK	309,243	Broadcasting Expenses	838,578
State Bank of India	2,233,559	Bank Charges	19,218
Bank of India	157,032	Boarding & Lodging Expenses	2,812,766
Cash in hand	45,293	Books & Periodicals	46,543
Foreign Currency in hand	16,307	Consultancy Charges	3,926,899
Fixed Deposits	18,243,778	Conveyance Expenses	799,969
		Electricity & Water Charges	258,679
	<b>21,005,212</b>	Equipment Hire Charges	201,598
<b>Grants Received :</b>		Honorarium	222,412
British High Commission - Access to Justice - Gujarat	3,531,538	Insurance Expenses- Staff	78,490
British High Commission - Effective Implementation of RTI Laws in India	8,018,202	Insurance Expenses- Office	6,448
Canadian High Commission-Radio Series on Police Public Interface	1,695,000	Internet Expenses	254,652
Commonwealth Foundation-Police Workshop in Ghana & HRF Meeting	775,500	Leave Encashment	162,190
Friedrich Naumann Stiftung - Building awareness on RTI	1,362,783	Legal & Professional Charges	85,268
Ford Foundation - New York Institutional Grant	5,730,515	Miscellaneous Expenses	16,222
Ford Foundation- India Constitutional Reforms	1,339,470	Membership & Subscription	5,785
Swiss Agency for Dev. & Coop. - Police Reforms - Chattisgarh	1,500,538	Office Expenses	213,845
Melbourne Development Institute PTE Ltd. - RTI module for Pacific Media	857,152	Postage & Telegrams	607,975
Administrative Reforms Commission - Roundtable on policing & public order	140,000	Per-diem Expenses	41,400
Sir Dorabji Tata Trust - Institutional Grant	2,450,000	Printing & Publications	4,213,370
United Nations Development Programme -SAJI-1	220,000	Rent,Rates & Taxes	856,750
	<b>27,620,698</b>	Recruitment Expenses	22,104
<b>Other Receipts</b>		Repair & Maintenance	383,295
Interest :		Software Exp.	7,300
On Fixed Deposits	1,329,426	Salary	5,094,817
On Savings Bank Account	78,763	Staff Training Expenses	76,572
Miscellaneous Receipts	62,408	Security Expenses	68,475
Sale of Assets	6,490	Telephone Expenses	455,179
Sale of Books	108,917	Travelling Expenses	3,656,721
	<b>1,586,004</b>	Venue Charges	209,115
<b>Total c/f</b>	<b>50,211,914</b>	<b>Total c/f</b>	<b>25,642,635</b>



Receipts	Amount Rs.	Payments	Amount Rs.
Total b/f	50,211,914	Total b/f	25,642,635
Increase/Decrease in Sundry Creditors	255,616	Air Conditioners	11,350
		Computer and Printers	76,200
		Furniture & Fixture	22,450
		Office Equipment	16,820
		UPS & Inverter	98,750
		Increase/Decrease in Sundry Debtors	237,399
		<b>Closing Balance :</b>	
		State Bank of India	409,129
		Bank of India	292,149
		HDFC Bank	453,297
		Bank of India-UNDP	162,022
		Cash in hand	58,163
		Foreign currency in hand	205,351
		Fixed Deposits	22,781,815
<b>Total</b>	<b>50,467,530</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>50,467,530</b>

As per our report of even date



**For Awatar & Co.,**  
**Chartered Accountants**  
*Sanjay Agrawal*  
**(Sanjay Agrawal)**  
**Partner**



**For and on behalf of Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative**  
*[Signature]*  
**Chairperson & Treasurer**  
*[Signature]*  
**Director**

Place : New Delhi  
Date : 19/07/2007