

# chri ANNUAL REPORT 2005 2006



**COMMONWEALTH HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVE**

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**CHRI's mission is to work for the practical realisation of human rights of all people in the Commonwealth. Human rights advocacy and education are at the core of CHRI's activities and the aims and ends of all its reports and investigations.**

**CHRI believes access to justice and access to information form the vital matrix that enables the realisation of human rights, promotion of good governance, deepening of democracy and pro-poor development. Consequently, CHRI furthers these agendas at international and national levels. To these ends, the organisation focuses on promoting mechanisms of accountability for better governance, particularly in developing countries of the Commonwealth while drawing and disseminating lessons on good practice from all.**

After almost ten years of CHRI working to give access to information and access to justice issues visibility at all levels – from grassroots work to policy advocacy and on local, regional, national and multilateral stages – these areas of work have come to be identified by individuals, policy makers, governments, civil society, regional and multilateral organisations and donors as seminal areas of emphasis for bringing about equitable social change and grounding good governance in all jurisdictions.

It is good also to report the impact of CHRI's work. This is evidenced by: real changes it has been able to bring about in policy and practice; its ability to influence other people to take on its campaigns; the degree to which it has been able to import notions of civil liberties into legislation; the acknowledgement afforded to CHRI by peers in the international arena; citations of its literature in various human rights and government publications; and the expanding demand for its technical advice and capacity building from across the Commonwealth.

Presently, CHRI's directions of work are prompted by its own advocacy agenda and the demand for its services in providing specialist legal advice, creating platforms, disseminating best practices and building capacity. The springboards for sustained advocacy, human rights education and capacity building all arise out of CHRI's comparative law and practice research and its reports (especially triggered by its successive CHOGM reports). CHRI's work remains informed by the concerns of the global south and by the need to ensure greater human rights compliance by governments and the need for greater access to rights and remedies by the poor who form the vast majority of people in the Commonwealth.

CHRI's recognition as an expert resource on Access to Justice and Access to Information grows along with its contacts in the Commonwealth and beyond. CHRI has consolidated its position as a credible and competent south-based resource in the areas of its work. The period under review has seen CHRI cover new ground. It has engaged with governments, multilateral organisations, regional bodies, human rights commissions, civil society groups and the media not only within the Commonwealth but also outside. Illustratively, CHRI has worked with human rights supporters from France (Second World Human Rights Forum of City of Nantes), begun dialogues with those serving the Francophone regions (Federation of International Human Rights Institutions) as well as cooperated with influential networks in the USA (International Bar Association). It has been able to influence their agendas and build good will for future work. For example, starting with their

meeting in Singapore next year, the International Bar Association will work with CHRI to promote discussion amongst its membership on issues of access to justice for the poor. The City of Nantes has expressed its interest in taking forward collaborations targeted at Africa around CHRI's themes of Access to Justice and Access to Information.

Where opportunities arise CHRI continues to partner with its sponsoring organisations to promote human rights. CHRI's most successful effort has been developing the module on human rights for parliamentarians, which it prepared for the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. This is now up on their website. CHRI shall continue to update that and build on it as necessary and intend to translate it into other languages in future. The internationalisation of CHRI's work has become a reality and is no longer a concern.

All in all the substantial efforts of really devoted teams, their determination to seize every opportunity, quick turn around times, reliability and generosity in partnerships, and above all, high quality targeted interventions and timely assistance have helped us carve out a niche of which CHRI can be proud but not content.



## 1. HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCACY

### 1.1. Overview

Apart from its core competencies in access to justice and access to information, CHRI constantly endeavours to raise issues of human rights concern at important fora. In particular it targets the Commonwealth Secretariat, Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group, periodic meetings of ministers, and the Heads of Government Meeting. It also seeks to engage with wider civil society groups and encourages human rights and governance groups to engage with the Commonwealth to further human rights.

### 1.2. Activities

#### In the Commonwealth

**Commonwealth of Learning.** While the narrow focus of the Commonwealth of Learning's work (distance education) has meant that CHRI has rarely engaged with this third official Commonwealth agency, an opportunity arose earlier this year to engage. In February 2006, CHRI provided inputs into the Commonwealth of Learning's draft three-year plan, advocating greater focus on human rights issues.

**Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group.** Over the year under review CHRI has made submissions to every Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (CMAG) meeting. CHRI has also been instrumental in getting human rights groups in these places to make their own submissions to CMAG. In particular CHRI has expressed its concerns on events in the Maldives and Pakistan. However it must be said that though CHRI is informally given to understand that its submissions are welcomed and appreciated, there is little or no feedback on how influential submissions have been and CHRI has certainly not seen discernable actions to indicate that CMAG is deeply concerned to further the human rights agenda.

**Commonwealth Ministerial Meetings.** In April 2005, CHRI was invited to participate in the civil society e-consultation organised by the Commonwealth Foundation prior to the Commonwealth Finance Ministers Meeting to be held in Sri Lanka in September. The discussions were on sustainable development and CHRI interventions focused on rights based approach and the value of having a guaranteed right to access government held information. A CHRI associate presented a background paper on governance and development, advocating strongly on human rights and particularly the right to information at the Commonwealth Youth Ministers Meeting in the Bahamas where she presented CHRI.

**Commonwealth Secretariat.** CHRI continues to liaise with the Commonwealth Secretariat on human rights issues more broadly as well as specifically on policing and right to information (covered in those respective programme areas of this report). This can be a difficult relationship to manage (particularly considering the very different mandates the two groups have in relation to human rights), but there have been positive steps made, as could be seen at last CHOGM (see below).

Despite several reminders to make good on its promise to evolve an official policy and practice for disclosure of documents, the Commonwealth Secretariat continues to go at snail's pace and has not furthered this agenda for two years.

Last heard, it was still at the planning stage with uncertainty about who had premier responsibility for carrying it through. CHRI continues to remind the Secretariat that a policy at the association's most central official mechanism would prompt others to greater transparency.

In March 2006, as a way of encouraging more interest in human rights at the Secretariat CHRI began sending the Human Rights Unit a weekly update of human rights issues across the Commonwealth. This is deliberately brief and is timed to inform internal Secretariat discussions on human rights and political issues. Feedback indicates that these are very useful and that the information is maintained in a database for future reference. Copies of these updates are also now being sent to CHRI's governing bodies, its offices and select donors and governments. CHRI is testing interest in this round up and will increase circulation only if there is a real readership.

**Commonwealth Human Rights Network.** The Commonwealth Human Rights Network (CHRN) was CHRI's brainchild. Its co-convenors are the Commonwealth Policy Studies Unit and the New Zealand based Amnesty International Commonwealth Amnesty Sections. The network continues to grow with a current membership of around 370 in 43 Commonwealth countries (and 10 non-Commonwealth countries). The network is serviced by CHRI which sends out an average of four emails each week. These despatches deal with various human rights issues ranging from briefs on issues like Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture and the new Human Rights Council, to news updates from countries where human rights violations are taking place, to information on conferences and other opportunities available for CHRN members. Important information sent by members is passed on where it will do the most good. Members of the CHRN come to the human rights forum which now takes place as a regular feature in tandem with the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM).

**Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting 2005.** The Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting is an important focal point of CHRI's advocacy. In the run up to CHOGM – which begins well nigh immediately after the last one has just ended – CHRI: a) furthers its own specific areas of concern; b) encourages others to intervene in the official Commonwealth on issues related to human rights as much as possible; c) creates events and makes submissions close to the event itself and of course d) releases every two years its biennial report on an issue of human rights concern.

Prior to CHOGM, 2005, submissions were sent to the Committee of the Whole (CoW), which met in London, and meetings were held with Commonwealth government delegations in Malta. CHRI has also met with the Foreign Ministers of Malta, Ghana and Fiji, and interacted with senior officials from Australia and Canada.

CHRI's 2005 report, *Police Accountability: Too Important to Neglect, Too Urgent to Delay* was launched on 23 November 2005, during CHOGM, by Tonio Borg, the Minister of Justice and Home Affairs and Deputy Prime Minister of Malta. It deals with the need for police accountability and reform. Like CHRI's *Open Sesame* report on access to information it has become the springboard for CHRI's specific program work across the Commonwealth.

Since CHRI's advocacy focused on effective and accountable policing, it believes that it may well have contributed to the section of the CHOGM communiqué,

which urged member countries to ensure that “national poverty reduction frameworks and development assistance programmes include measures to build effective and accountable security and justice sectors...”

**Media work at CHOGM.** CHRI’s media advocacy at CHOGM led to 24 press articles in Australia, Malta, Uganda, Sierra Leone, Kenya, Maldives, Fiji, the United Kingdom, Bangladesh, South Africa, Switzerland, the United Arab Emirates and Qatar. Regional newspapers such as the Pacific Magazine also mentioned the Commonwealth Human Rights Forum. Contacts were established with journalists interested in human rights from Uganda, which will be helpful in the lead up to the 2007 CHOGM.

**Commonwealth Human Rights Forum.** On 20 and 21 November 2005, CHRI organised the second Commonwealth Human Rights Forum (CHRF) in Malta. Around 50 participants from Australia, Bangladesh, Cameroon, Canada, Fiji, Ghana, India, Jamaica, Maldives, Malta, Sierra Leone, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda, the UK and Zimbabwe attended along with an observer from the Commonwealth Secretariat. Unfortunately approximately 15 delegates from Uganda, Nigeria, Pakistan, Ghana and Bangladesh amongst other countries were denied visas by the Malta Immigration Police.

The topic was ‘Networking for Human Rights’ and focused on restriction of civil society space. The final communiqué from the CHRF was widely disseminated, including in the pigeonholes of all government delegations, and widely reported in the media. CHRI received positive feedback from not just civil society but also governments on the communiqué.

There are around 500 mentions of the CHRF on the Internet, showing wide online interest and coverage of the event. Several news websites from various countries and regions mentioned the CHRF. A questionnaire was sent out to members prior to the CHRF to obtain feedback and suggestions for future development, which were then analysed and discussed at the CHRF. Overall, the feedback from the questionnaire was very positive but it was felt that the network could become even more interactive. This is now being worked on.

CHRI’s own Forum apart, it also participated in the Commonwealth People’s Forum (CPF) and ensured CHRI’s main advocacy points were included in the CPF communiqué. CHRI also spoke at the Commonwealth Youth Forum, linking human rights to issues of good governance.

The real value of the Commonwealth Human Rights Forum and Network lies in its own cohesion and its growing capabilities to act in one voice. Its ability to influence individual heads of state is growing and will be felt in future. However, it must be mentioned that in the absence of response from the Commonwealth as an association, many will review the time and energy they are willing to devote to influencing the agendas of this association.

**Direct advocacy with governments.** As well as targeting governments through their membership in the Commonwealth, United Nations or regional bodies, CHRI also seeks to engage with them directly. Information on policing and right to information is contained in programme sections below. Information here covers interventions on human rights more broadly.

Modalities vary as CHRI is sometimes able to meet with representatives in person, while at other times communicate from afar. It selects its strategies



depending on the context and issue – sometimes working more quietly behind the scenes, while at other times making its critiques more publicly and garner strong media coverage. Illustrative examples of such interventions are:

**Kenya:** In March 2006 CHRI released a media statement on raids in Kenya and political interference in policing. The statement was picked up by around 20 newspapers and websites, primarily in Africa.

**Maldives:** As mandated by the last AC meeting at Malta, CHRI has kept a special eye on developments. In the course of the year, CHRI has met with the Foreign Minister, Minister for Justice and Minister for Information as well as several other officials and leaders of the opposition. It has written to the Government of the Maldives, analysed the Maldives' 'Roadmap for the Reform Agenda' and highlighted human rights concerns. Such interaction is designed to express CHRI's willingness to assist with reforms and raise issues of human rights concern. CHRI has also lobbied for the release of Jennifer Latheef. CHRI raised the issue of lack of public consultation in the Maldivian Constitution making process. Both the parties agreed that there was much more to be done. Though the Maldivian government officials give every impression of being willing to engage with civil society and are careful to seek us out as necessary they have been extremely slow to provide even minimum information on the evolution of new laws and policies, pleading language difficulties in parting with originals or providing translations. This has left us with limited ability to intervene in live legislative processes. CHRI has nevertheless made strong suggestions about the Maldives adopting a more participatory approach to reviewing their constitution and will seek to advocate for the inclusion of constitutional guarantees for right to access information in time to come.

**United Kingdom:** The Human Rights Annual Report of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the United Kingdom House of Commons, which was released in February 2006 included material from CHRI's submission on Zimbabwe and Maldives. Resulting from CHRI's points on the Maldives, the Committee requested that the Government provide further information on this country in the future.

**Nigeria:** In response to concerns about the sacking of the Executive Secretary of the National Human Rights Commission, CHRI sent out two media releases, and advocacy letters to a number of targets including the President, the Commonwealth Secretary General and the Chair of the African Union. The response of the Commonwealth Secretariat was disappointing in that it seemed unfazed by the fact that a human rights institution its own standards encourage to be independent and strong was being so blatantly attacked. CHRI was not made aware of any behind the scenes activities but has no reason to believe there were any moves to persuade the Nigerian government to back track on its illegal actions.

**India:** Just before elections were to be held to the new Human Rights Council, CHRI met with the Joint Secretary (United Nations – Political) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to discuss human rights concerns in the Commonwealth, the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group, the proposed Expert Group on Policing, and India's nomination to the United Nation's Human Rights Council. CHRI mentioned that there would be much more pressure to comply with international human rights norms now that India has a seat on the new Council and expressed its view that India should see itself bound to comply with the norms and reporting processes of the United Nations.

**United Nations.** Since CHRI received consultative status with the Economic and Social Council last year, it has been more closely monitoring the United Nations system for advocacy opportunities. CHRI's initial plan was to attend the new United Nations Human Rights Commission in 2006, but due to the changes that were taking place in the United Nations' own human rights monitoring mechanisms it was decided that it was better to use this budgeted money later, once the agenda and format for the new Human Rights Council had been decided. CHRI did, however, send a written statement on policing to the last Human Rights Commission session and was part of the joint non-government organisation statement presented to the last session of the United Nations Human Rights Commission.

Prior to the Second Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council Meeting CHRI submitted letters to the thirteen Commonwealth Countries in the Council reminding them of the pledges they have made and their Commonwealth commitments. Copies were also sent to the Council and the Commonwealth Secretariat.

Other engagement includes an analysis of the Secretary General's report, *In Larger Freedoms*, and signing on to a collaborative non-government organisation letter to urge adoption of the United Nations General Assembly resolution to establish the new Human Rights Council.



## **2. ACCESS TO JUSTICE**

All projects in the Access to Justice Programme - police reforms, prisons reform, judicial colloquia and the special projects in Gujarat and Chattisgarh have continued to grow and/or consolidate during the past year. While the international police reforms work has seen geographical expansion and deepening of its scope, the India work has had demonstrable impact in influencing policy change.

The prisons project has established CHRI as a respectable resource for individuals and organisations working around prison reform. The Chattisgarh and Gujarat projects keep CHRI in constant touch with human rights and governance realities on the ground and feed into its advocacy at national, regional and international levels. The projects also provide direct access to the community for the dissemination of its publications.

The judicial colloquia programme has not been active during this period, but is entering a growth phase. This phase began with an invitation from the Chief Justice of the Andhra Pradesh High Court to hold a series of workshops for district court judges across the state. Each project in the Access to Justice Programme works closely with, and has links to, its sibling projects. For example, the Gujarat programme, which has evolved to include judicial training, will lead the reinvigorated judicial colloquia programme.

### **2.1 Police reforms - international**

#### **2.1.1 Overview**

CHRI's work on police reforms has become increasingly visible during the last year. This is demonstrated by CHRI's inclusion in major national police forums in Ghana, East Africa and India and the currency its main planks for reform have gained, as indicated below. Elsewhere, the debate around reforms has become more specific and has spread across international civil society as CHRI's publications are disseminated and CHRI's networks engage. Knowledge of and engagement with police accountability and reform has been taken up by many more individuals, groups and governments this year than ever before. CHRI is confident that, given continued financial support, it will be able to redouble its efforts in East and West Africa and catalyse civil society involvement in security sector reforms in the Pacific region.

As pleased as it is of the success of its police reform work, CHRI is aware of how much there remains to be done, both in India and across the regions of the Commonwealth. CHRI has built a solid foundation of networks, knowledge and engagement, but there is a long way to go before democratic, transparent and accountable policing is a reality for all of the communities of the Commonwealth. The demand for CHRI's focused, needs-based, opportunity driven interventions will, unfortunately, be present for a considerable time to come.

#### **2.1.2 Activities**

##### **Advancing the police reform agenda**

CHRI's 2005 report to CHOGM on police accountability established CHRI as a specialist resource on comparative law and practice on police accountability

and reform. The police reforms programme team has used the opportunity provided by the launch and dissemination of the CHOGM report on police accountability across the Commonwealth to build networks and internationalise the police programme further. For example, the Kenya Human Rights Commission recently asked CHRI to conduct a review of the Kenya Police Act and provide a model bill for the Commission to use as part of its advocacy work. In India, CHRI was co-opted on to the Police Act Drafting Committee – the only human rights or civil society organisation invited to be involved.

### **Commonwealth Expert Group**

In January 2006, CHRI met with the Commonwealth Secretary General and advocated for the creation of a Commonwealth Expert Group on Policing. The Secretary General indicated that the proposed Expert Group required support from governments, police and civil society organisations across the Commonwealth before he could take the issue forward. Following this discussion, CHRI began an international letter writing campaign, approaching contacts and seeking support for an Expert Group to be conveyed to the Secretary General. Advocacy will continue up to the 2007 CHOGM in Uganda, aiming to secure a mandate for the Expert Group from the Heads of Government.

### **United Nations**

CHRI submitted a written statement on policing and human rights to the final session of the United Nations Human Rights Commission as part of an effort to expand United Nations advocacy and make use of its consultative status with the ECOSOC. CHRI also prepared a submission on policing in Uganda for the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights ahead of the Commissioner's official visit to Uganda in January 2006.

### **East Africa**

The initial stage of the East Africa project came to a close in this period, with the publication and release of five reports on policing in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania. Three of the reports looked at police accountability in each of these countries, while two reports looked at the impact of police budgets for Kenya and Uganda. Previously, very little research on the police in East Africa had been completed or published and very little information about the police was available in the public domain. The reports have been commended by members of civil society, police and government in East Africa as an extremely valuable contribution to the efforts to increase transparency in police and governance and to ignite the police reform debate in the region. The reports – and the surrounding advocacy, conference and media work - established CHRI as a credible resource on police accountability and reform in the region and have provided the basis for its plans to expand its work in the region.

The reports are to be launched regionally in Arusha, Tanzania, at a conference to be facilitated by CHRI and the East Africa Law Society. The conference will look at police accountability in the region, and bring together a wide range of police, civil society and government delegates. Future work will focus on capacity building of local organisations and assisting them to engage with the police reforms process.

The networks established during the course of the project - particularly in Uganda - stand CHRI in good stead in the lead up to the 2007 CHOGM in Kampala.

CHRI has worked with the media to good effect in the region. For example, following police raids on newspaper presses and television studios in Kenya in early 2006, CHRI circulated a media release condemning the raids. The release was widely reproduced, both across Africa and the world.

### **West Africa**

The first full year of the Ghana office's police accountability programme was extremely successful, culminating in the reappointment of a police council. The police council is a Constitutional police oversight mechanism – the previous Council lapsed with the end of the last Presidential term. The Ghana office conducted advocacy around this issue, addressing Parliament, engaging with media and generally raising the profile of the issue. Following the reappointment of the Council, the Ghana office will focus on lobbying around the drafting of a National Policing Policy for Ghana.

In addition, the Accra office commissioned a number of reports on different aspects of policing in Ghana; these reports are currently being edited with a view to publication.

### **South and South East Asia (excluding India)**

CHRI has intervened in the Maldives to support police reform components in the government's *Roadmap to the Reform Agenda Policy*. CHRI has engaged with government, opposition and civil society in the Maldives to ensure that policing issues remain high on the reform agenda. A major push into the Maldives is planned, pending the receipt of promised draft legislation from the Attorney General's office.

In Malaysia, where police reform is currently a pressing issue, CHRI supported the Bar Council's demands for the introduction of an independent complaints authority. CHRI also engaged with government and local civil society on police accountability and reform issues, and completed a review of police objections to an independent complaints authority on behalf of the Bar Council.

### **Pacific**

As CHRI's Right to Information Programme is consolidating its gains in the Pacific and CHRI's networks are strengthening there, the police programme is building a foundation for targeted engagement in the region. CHRI has drafted a Pacific Strategy for the organisation, to guide all programme areas, and ensure an effective, efficient and complementary drive into the region.

#### **2.1.3 Impact**

CHRI has been included in major national police fora in Ghana, East Africa and India. It has been approached by civil society organisations in South East Asia, South America and East Africa for technical assistance, advocacy help and media comment or publication submissions. For example, the Bar

Council in Malaysia requested CHRI's comments on internal police objections to an independent oversight body, while in Kenya the Independent-Medico Legal Unit requested and published a number of CHRI's articles in a police accountability themed issue of its *Rights Journal* publication, following CHRI's police accountability roundtable in Tanzania. CHRI's reach extended to South America, where Conectas, which is based in Brazil, approached CHRI to draft an article on policing for the next issue of its human rights journal, *Sur*. In West Africa, advocacy efforts led to the reappointment of a Police Council in Ghana. Requests for all major policing publications, including the 2005 CHOGM report and the East Africa series, continue to be received from individuals and organisations around the globe.

## **2.2 Police Reforms - India**

### **2.2.1 Overview**

The police reforms programme in India is now nearly ten years old. The programme is focused on creating demand for better policing and advocating for a new kind of policing which is transparent, democratic, accountable and in line with constitutional provisions. CHRI concentrates on bringing about systemic changes in law, policy and practice.

The project involves public education through workshops and media interventions and policy level interventions in every known policy discussion or government activity on police reform.

### **2.2.2 Activities**

In the period under review, CHRI prioritised two activities. The first was participation in a Police Act Drafting Committee. This government appointed committee co-opted CHRI as the only civil society organisation to participate in its deliberations. The Committee has prepared a draft Police Act for submission to the Government. CHRI has played an instrumental role in all aspects of the drafting of the Act. The second activity was a national campaign to build informed public opinion about the values, mechanics and processes that go into creating reformed policing.

#### **Police Act Drafting Committee**

CHRI has attended almost all of the meetings of the Committee. Between meetings, CHRI works with sub-committees to prepare and review drafts, provides alternative provisions where necessary, and meets with individual members of the Committee to advocate for the inclusion of more human rights focused content and accountability mechanisms.

CHRI provides the Committee with a civil liberties perspective, comparative law and technical input. It regularly briefs the Chair of the Committee and provides inputs, research and perspective as requested. The impact of CHRI's efforts has countered some of the more reactionary authoritarian trends under debate and has led to the inclusion of CHRI designed accountability mechanisms, based on the vision of democratic policing set out in CHRI's 2005 CHOGM report. CHRI's intervention has led to an overall accountability framework shaping the draft Act. Following the public release of the final version of the draft Act, CHRI will circulate dissenting notes on

sections of the law that impact on human rights, are inappropriate to include in police legislation and to emphasise the importance of a strong accountability structure.

CHRI's presence on the Committee has allowed it to keep a large audience informed of early developments and concerns about the final outcome of the Committee process. This will provide a springboard for further public discussion around the mechanics of reform following the finalisation and public release of the Act. The police team is already working on a comprehensive advocacy campaign following the release of the draft Act, to target government, media and CHRI's broad civil society network (many of whom have been involved in CHRI's civil society consultation series on policing) in an effort to raise the profile of the draft legislation, encourage community level debate and engagement with the reforms process, and highlight CHRI concerns where appropriate.

### **Building informed public opinion**

To keep civil society and police organisations involved, CHRI held a national roundtable on police reforms in November 2005 to discuss aspects of police accountability, particularly in terms of performance evaluation boards, public complaints systems, and how to remove political control. The roundtable targeted lawyers, social activists, human rights defenders and human rights commissions. In addition, CHRI held a series of regional civil society consultation workshops. These consultation workshops were designed to connect civil society organisations and individuals working at the grassroots level and regional lawyers and activists with the police reforms process that is taking place at the national level. These workshops have informed the design of CHRI's proposed workshop programmes for its East Africa and Pacific programmes. CHRI has addressed meetings with the Partners for Law and Development, the North East Network in Guwahati, PCGT, the Times Foundation in Mumbai and Women's Power Connect, and have also spoken to donor agencies like the British High Commission.

#### **2.2.3 Impact**

- The policy environment for exploring good practice in policing became more receptive. For instance, after the launch of the 2005 CHOGM report (the CHOGM report was launched for the South Asia region in India on 5 November 2005, by former Prime Minister Mr I K Gujral), two former Prime Ministers, - Mr I K Gujral and Mr V P Singh, wrote to the current Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, urging change in the government's policing policy and for the implementation of police reforms. CHRI wrote to the Prime Minister an open letter urging the creation of a civilian oversight mechanism and a complaints authority to look at public grievances against the police. The themes of the letter were reflected in the Prime Minister's address to a national meeting of police chiefs. With clear signals from the government, the Ministry of Home Affairs constituted a Police Act Drafting Committee and CHRI was co-opted to the Committee in recognition of its reputation as a pre-eminent police accountability resource.
- At the drafting committee CHRI's insistence on the protection of civil liberties and preserving citizen's rights against the State has ensured that the orientation of new policing will be embedded within the four corners of



the State's human rights obligations. The police will be seen at least on paper as being an essential public service rather than a coercive force in the service of the powerful.

- CHRI's work has begun to catalyse a civil society movement for police reform. The project has led to individuals and organisations becoming more knowledgeable about accountability mechanisms, reform strategies and the importance of a human rights focus in policing. It has also led to individuals and organisations being increasingly willing and able to work in the area, engage in CHRI networks, and add working positively with governments to their routine naming and shaming methods.

## **2.3 Chhattisgarh and Gujarat projects**

### **2.3.1 Overview**

CHRI's work in Chattisgarh and Gujarat keeps it in constant touch with the reality of policing issues, police reform and challenges to good governance. Both projects proved extremely valuable in guiding interventions at the Police Act Drafting Committee and continue to inform and provide practical examples of reform and accountability for both the India and the international programmes.

Chattisgarh is a newly created state, with a largely tribal population. It has a relatively young and small police organisation. The work in Chattisgarh was begun with the promise of long term support and an overall objective of catalysing reforms in a new state with a relatively small police force. A shorter term objective was to examine and document at close quarters the challenges to policing in a typically under developed state as well as to demonstrate that improvement was possible with state, civil society and accountability mechanisms, such as the human rights commission, working together. The project was also designed to provide practical examples of reforms and challenges for the wider police programme.

The Gujarat project grew out of CHRI's humanitarian intervention at the height of the 2002 communal violence that resulted in the death of over two thousand Muslims. This was initially intended to be a short-term, project, but CHRI stayed on to provide both human and legal relief to affected members of the community. The present project is intended to demonstrate that when, properly pursued, the courts and legal system can pierce the armour of police impunity. It is also intended to document the reality of the criminal justice system via court observation and involvement in cases that have risen out of mass violence. The conventional wisdom is that these cases are impossible to gain convictions in. CHRI's project is proving this wisdom flawed.

### **2.3.2 Activities**

#### **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.

### **Maana police station**

For the past two years CHRI has worked with government, police and the local community to create a demonstration project at a police station in Maana, a semi-urban area on the outskirts of Raipur, Chhattisgarh's capital. At present, several community liaison groups meet regularly with local police, discuss security issues and grievances and cooperate in ensuring the safety and security of the community at Maana. These meetings are convened by the police. Action points are recorded and reviewed at each meeting. As a result of the cooperation, the police have become more vigilant, more humane and more responsive and have won an unprecedented level of public confidence. The previously abandoned beat system of policing has been revived and the police and public have come together to make other authorities more accountable. For example, the police and community have united to call on the excise department to stop allowing unauthorised liquor vendors to ply their trade in public places. The police and the community have also joined forces to deal with the electricity provider, which has failed to provide sufficient street lighting. Public demand for better policing services has ensured that police in the area are better supported, have access to transport and more adequate infrastructure.

These gains have been the result of a long process. Initial groundwork completed in the area includes human rights sensitisation of the police personnel and increasing community knowledge of their rights. This required CHRI to train the police in human rights and inform the community of their rights.

### **Engagement and confrontation**

As it engages with government, CHRI has also confronted the Government on several issues, including deaths in custody, the government handling of growing militancy in the state and of the passage of the *Chhattisgarh Special Public Security Act*. This year CHRI facilitated an Independent Citizen's Initiative, comprised of a group of eminent scholars, writers and civil servants, who visited a district in the state to study the issues of rising militancy and the government's response to this phenomenon. The group has presented its report, made submissions to the National Human Rights Commission and demanded a judicial inquiry. CHRI is currently assessing the most effective strategy to follow on from this work. CHRI has long advocated for institutionalised police-public interfaces in non-conflict zones as a means of preventing further conflicts.

The experiment in Maana has attracted the interest of the police in other states and CHRI's training modules and methodologies have been widely commended and are often requested.

### **Capacity building**

CHRI conducted a human rights sensitisation programme for police officers in Raipur. This led to an invitation to conduct regular training courses on human rights and community policing at police training schools in the state. Following this invitation, CHRI was invited by the Director General of Police to address

the newly recruited Deputy Superintendents of Police. CHRI is presently finalising a human rights focused syllabus for police training and will shortly consult with the Government to institutionalise the syllabus at police training colleges in Chhattisgarh.

The officer in charge of community policing in the neighbouring state of Madhya Pradesh has visited CHRI's project in Chhattisgarh. CHRI intends to build on this kind of recognition to encourage civil society and police in other states to undertake similar projects.

### **Diarying the activities of Maana Police Station**

As a complement to the Maana experiment, CHRI has undertaken an hour by hour documentation of police activities in the police station in order to make visible to the authorities and to the public the impossibly difficult circumstances in which police function. This information is intended to indicate conditions that are typical across India and will form the basis of an advocacy document. In addition, a descriptive booklet on police organisation in Chhattisgarh is planned for publication next year.

### **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.

The project provides CHRI with real life empirical evidence of the infirmities present in policing and the broader criminal justice system. This evidence is used by both the Indian and international programmes to inform their work and identify areas of the criminal justice system that require systemic change. Documentation of the court process, is reliable, quantifiable evidence that the police need reforming.

### **Case watch**

Much of the project's work is assisting the trial process, observation and documentation. Two of the cases have ended in successful prosecutions with life sentences being awarded to all accused persons. Other cases have been running in fast track courts for the past few years, whilst some are yet to begin.

Although the police have filed charge sheets, the investigations have been of poor quality. The Supreme Court has ordered the reopening of particularly poorly investigated cases, but the reinvestigations are deliberately slow, with the police making every possible attempt to derail the investigation process and threaten and intimidate witnesses. Under such circumstances, the CHRI team continues to keep a watchful brief and works under considerable

pressure. Daily documentation of cases is ongoing and hopefully this should contribute to the larger Access to Justice Programme.

### **Paralegal training**

The objective of CHRI's paralegal training programme is to develop community based legal resources. These resources can assist members of the community to exercise their rights, as well as create a common language to resolve conflict. In the period under review 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. These newsletters and publications are being availed by the block administration for dissemination within the entire block. However, further training of these paralegals is necessary to fully exploit their capabilities. A second round of training with a new set of trainees has begun, using the training module that has been developed after the first round.

In addition the project provides regular legal training on concepts of social lawyering to lawyers as well as legal aid providers. Cases coming up before the paralegals that need a lawyer's intervention are being frequently referred to these lawyers. The lawyers also assist CHRI and the group of paralegals in holding legal literacy workshops in several villages of Halol and Kalol blocks.

### **Citizen's Advice Centres**

Citizen's Advice Centres, run by paralegal groups, are now operating in two towns. The Centres respond to citizen's queries and hold regular workshops on a wide range of legal issues. Paralegals working in these Centres have had success using the Right to Information Act to hold local government and administrative departments to account. Their monthly newsletters and pamphlets are widely anticipated and have a wide audience, with further unmet demand. The Centres have received recognition from the Block level authorities as well as the Taluka Legal Services Authority. The uniqueness of these Centres lies in the fact that they are completely run by the community. CHRI's role is limited to providing the connections, networks, technical assistance and the linkages and monitoring the functioning of the Centres. CHRI considers this kind of initiative to be a key to the sustainability of the project goals following the end of the project.

### **Social Justice Committees**

The law requires Social Justice Committees to be functional in each village to plan and monitor development activities that target members of disadvantaged sections of the community. In most villages, these Committees have never been formed. However, each community that CHRI works with has now constituted such a Committee. Regular capacity building workshops with members of these committees are being held. Some of these members have even joined the paralegal training group in order to acquire basic legal skills.

### **2.3.3 Impact**

#### **Chhattisgarh**

- The project has attracted the interest of police officers in other states, who have sought further information regarding the operation of the project. The Chhattisgarh office also receives numerous requests for CHRI's learning modules and methodologies.
- The police willingness to allow CHRI to design a rights based teaching manual for use in police training colleges in the state is indicative of CHRI's reputation growing reputation as a dependable resource. The future impact of this aspect of the project will be a rights-aware and rights-sensitive police officers policing the Chhattisgarh streets.

#### **Gujarat**

- The victories in court cases relating to communal violence have disproved the popular perception that convictions in such cases are impossible to secure. Sustained efforts by the team have shown that it is possible to move the justice system to work according to the law and established procedures even in the face of high levels of resistance from vested interest groups within the establishment and society at large.
- The paralegal training programme has had an empowering effect on the participants who have begun to deploy their newly acquired knowledge and skills to solve problems that arise in their daily interaction with the authorities.
- Recognition of the worth of CHRI's work is reflected in awards and fellowships offered to CHRI staff. The Project Coordinator has been awarded the prestigious Nani A. Palkhivala award for the defense and preservation of civil liberties

## **2.4 Prison reform**

### **2.4.1 Overview**

CHRI's prison reform work is focused and localised to four states in India, but the project in Andhra Pradesh has been the most active in the past year. The project has had a number of successes, particularly at the policy level. The project focuses on India's mandatory prison visiting system. This is a system where members of a board of lay persons visit and inspect prisons to ensure that the law is being complied with and adequate standards are maintained. Despite the mandatory nature of this system, it is either extinct or dysfunctional. CHRI believes the system has the potential, if revived and implemented correctly, to improve prison functioning, ensure accountability and ensure better realisation of prisoners' rights and their access to justice.

## 2.4.2 Activities

The programme focuses on:

**Prison visitors.** This covers the process and criteria of selection of prison visitors, capacity building of the visitors, and pressuring governments to form Boards of Prison Visitors to address prison problems.

**Creating contact.** This aspect of the programme brings together the various agencies of the criminal justice system at a local level.

**Education.** This aspect of the project aims to sensitise visitors, prison authorities and government functionaries of the scope of their legal obligations, prisoner's rights and practical means of reducing prison related problems. Included in this are police officers, prosecutors, legal service authorities, the judiciary and human rights commissions. This is to promote coordination in the day-to-day interactions of the various components of the prisons system, as well as the broader criminal justice system.

The focus of the prisons program this year has been on the operation of the system in Andhra Pradesh. This project began early 2005, with a study of the prison visiting system. CHRI then shared its findings and recommendations with the State Human Rights Commission, the prison department, the administrative judge in charge of legal aid and the legal aid authority. CHRI indicated where statutory obligations were not being met, illustrated the complete absence of the mandated requirements and highlighted the appalling injustice suffered by prison inmates as a result.

CHRI's prisons handbook has been translated into the local language and circulated to prison authorities, district collectors and prison visitors. Coordination and intercommunication among various organs of government – prison department, home department, district collectors, state human rights commissions and prison visitors – has substantially increased after CHRI's intervention.

In the course of its work, CHRI drew attention to the large number of deaths in custody. The State Human Rights Commission has taken notice of this issue and appointed CHRI staff to investigate and suggest solutions.

CHRI has been working to provide resources that will aid the prison visiting system implementation process. For example, a brochure on rights and duties of prisoners has been prepared in collaboration with the State Legal Services Authority. This brochure will be provided by convicting or trial magistrates to persons remanded to prisons.

CHRI prisons programme has international reputation and applicability. For example, CHRI recently contributed its experience in prisons to an international study of pre-trial detention being run out of the Justice Initiative in New York.

CHRI also works on prisons reform in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. The scope of the prisons projects in these states is similar, but more constrained by resource limitations.

### **2.4.3 Impact**

In Andhra Pradesh, impact includes the setting up of mechanisms by the judiciary and the State Legal Services Authority to ensure better communication, which will reduce overcrowding in prisons, and the release of four circulars issued by the High Court's supervising judge calling for a mechanism for prisoners to directly access the judiciary to be set up. Also in Andhra Pradesh the Government issued directions to all concerned authorities to take steps to recast the prison visiting system in line with legislative requirements. The Government extended the system from twenty prisons to all one hundred and forty one prisons in the state. It is presently in the process of constituting Boards of Prison Visitors, who will create a rotation system for visiting prisons regularly. These changes sprung from CHRI's advocacy work.

In Rajasthan, the Home Department appointed visitors to fiftythree prisons that had not been visited by the board in two years. This followed a workshop facilitated by CHRI in Jaipur in January 2006. State officials from different ministries have requested further such workshops. Following the release of a CHRI report on prison conditions in Rajasthan, which highlighted the lack of sufficient and appropriate staff in jails, the Government recruited 250 security warders and 40 Assistant Jailors, and promoted head warders to fill vacant positions within the prisons system.

In Chhattisgarh, all 27 prisons have timely and regular appointments of visitors and Boards of Visitors have been constituted for each prison, following CHRI advocacy. The quality of appointments has also improved.

In Madhya Pradesh, all 110 prisons also have timely and regular appointments of visitors and Boards of Visitors have been constituted for each prison, following CHRI pressure. The quality of appointments has also improved here.



### 3 ACCESS TO INFORMATION

The access to information programme aims to promote and protect the fundamental human right to information, and works to catalyse the development and implementation of right to information regimes in Commonwealth countries. Success with multiple target groups and the sustained work that followed the publication of *Open Sesame* is now the template, which the organisation follows for Police Reform as well. CHRI has located itself as a technical resource for civil society and governments wanting to develop access to information laws as well as a capacity builder. Certainly CHRI's constant communication with governments, complemented by the strong support and capacity building for both civil society and government officials, as it has done from Africa to the Pacific, has influenced the quality of the discourse and helped to increase informed participation and consultation in law making as well as resist poor and restrictive content.

#### 3.1 Right to information - international

##### 3.1.1 Overview

During the last year, CHRI's international right to information programme continued to expand at a steady pace. In particular, CHRI expanded its network much further into the Commonwealth Caribbean and Pacific Islands regions. Meanwhile, CHRI has actively provided resource and strategic advice support to its current partners in East and West Africa as well as in South Asia, thereby building on its reputation as one of the leading organisations working on right to information issues.

##### Advocacy initiatives

At a general level, CHRI continues to make substantial contributions and inputs to the International Freedom of Information Advocates Network (FOIANet). Furthermore, during the year, CHRI continued to provide inputs to draft *Global Transparency Charter* being written on behalf of the Global Transparency Initiative – a small coalition of right to information organisations working to promote the right to information at the intergovernmental level. CHRI has officially endorsed the final draft version of the Charter.

The Access to Information team has also further extended its international networks. For example, at the request of the United Nation Development Programme's (UNDP) Governance Office's right to information section in Oslo, CHRI critiqued the draft UNDP Guide to Measuring the Impact of the Right to Information, a publication that will be circulated to all UNDP country offices. CHRI's relationship with the UNDP continues to develop through providing inputs to a research paper it is compiling about measuring the effectiveness of the right to information on the poor and marginalised.

##### Africa

CHRI has continued to consolidate and extend its work in Africa via both its India and Ghana offices. In particular, CHRI has focused on extending its networks and branching out into further jurisdictions in the region. In particular, CHRI has made partners with key groups in **Cameroon** and **Sierra**

**Leone**, where freedom of information campaigns are in nascent stages. Since then, CHRI has provided inputs into Sierra Leone's civil society Freedom of Information Bill and provided strategic advice on campaigning and lobbying for freedom of information in the country with its main partner, the Society for Democratic Initiatives. CHRI has also written to the office of the President in **Botswana** and **Zambia** encouraging the taking up of freedom of information in the former and the passage of a Freedom of Information Bill in the latter. CHRI will be sending a letter to the Botswana Government supporting calls to enact right to information legislation made by opposition MPs and offering CHRI's services in drafting the law. The head of CHRI's Africa office will participate in a regional conference on right to information in West Africa held jointly by Media Rights Agenda and the World Bank.

In **Kenya**, CHRI can take credit for bringing the right to information on to the core agenda of one of Kenya's strongest non-government organisations, the Kenya Human Rights Commission (KHRC). It has also strengthened its relationship with CHRI partners, KHRC and the local chapter of the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ). CHRI hosted one of KHRC's interns for a month so that they could learn about the Indian experience as their circumstances are similar. CHRI fixed up meetings with the organisations and personalities involved in campaigning for and implementation of the Right to Information Act. For ICJ, CHRI provided substantial inputs into ICJ's *Handbook for Citizens*. CHRI now continues to support both partners by providing advice on points of law and also on the final civil society bill.

In **Uganda** CHRI had earlier input into the legislation. Once the new law was passed CHRI has continued to work actively with its main partners HURINET and the Foundation for Human Rights Initiative (FHRI) to provide advice to HURINET on their strategic plan toward monitoring implementation the Access to Information Act. CHRI provided resource materials such as its right to information User Guide for India, which HURINET is now using to input into their own user's guide. CHRI has also extended its expertise to the Director of the Information Unit in the President's Office, who is responsible for overseeing implementation of the new law. This has already involved sending CHRI resource materials and updating the Director on international best practices.

### **Caribbean**

CHRI has consolidated its partnerships with local non-government organisations in Jamaica, Antigua and Barbuda and Trinidad and Tobago and more recently extended its networks to many of the other islands including the Cayman Islands, and Guyana. CHRI also gauged some interest in the right to information from Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Granada, where media groups are contemplating taking up promotion of the right to information, and the Bahamas, where CHRI learnt through a media article that the Government was considering putting together an Freedom of Information Bill. CHRI has also been strengthening ties with the Carter Centre, an American think-tank, which has worked on Freedom of Information issues in the region.

In **Jamaica** CHRI has been involved in process of the Government's review of the Access to Information Act. Working with its local partner, Jamaicans for Justice, CHRI has sent to the Jamaican Government recommendations for updating the law and reviewing implementation practices. CHRI has also

lobbied all members of the government's review committee requesting that they take up its recommendations and reject others made by government agencies seeking to narrow the scope of the law.

In **Guyana** CHRI learnt that an opposition political party had put together a draft Freedom of Information Bill. CHRI critiqued the Bill and sent its materials to its local partner. It also provided strategic advice on how to raise awareness for the Bill.

In the **Cayman Islands**, CHRI has been working with the Cabinet Office, which is looking to formulate a Freedom of Information Bill. CHRI has provided a critique and also sent out implementation materials to assist the government's plans to enact a freedom of information law.

### **Pacific**

CHRI has been particularly active in strongly developing its programme in the Pacific Islands region on a number of levels. With the help of a small NZAID grant CHRI has used every opportunity to make itself visible, provide assistance and strengthen ties with local partners across the region. The Pacific Plan produced by the Forum Secretariat specifically mentions RTI, most likely in response to lobbying by CHRI. An official at the Secretariat has also advised that ForSec continue to push forward its own disclosure policy, the draft of which was based on a CHRI submission to the Secretariat. One of CHRI's Coordinators met with the heads of the Pacific Media & Communications Facility (PMCF) to discuss how to promote RTI regionally, within their existing work programme. Notably, CHRI was specifically mentioned in the 'Needs Analysis' published by the PMCF in October 2005. The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) published – in CHRI and CPA's names – a report on the Pacific RTI workshop for MPs held in September 2005.

In **Fiji**, CHRI has been working closely with the Pacific Centre for Public Integrity (PCPI) to ensure that any national FOI legislation is properly drafted. CHRI analysed the draft Government FOI Bill for PCPI who used it as a basis for lobbying key MPs and other policy-makers. CHRI also jointly sent a letter to the Fiji Prime Minister, urging the Government to draft a law which accords with best practice principles and to undertake a proper public consultation process before finalising its draft FOI law. PCPI reports that the letter was effective in slowing the process to enable more public comment. PCPI have also advised CHRI that they would eventually like us to go in-country to assist with their advocacy efforts and to train local NGOs on RTI issues.

In **Vanuatu**, CHRI was got in touch with the local chapter of Transparency International which had drafted a Freedom of Information Bill. CHRI provided a critique of the Bill and its comments were incorporated into an updated version. CHRI is now looking to work with Transparency International to help promote the right to information in the country.

### **South Asia**

CHRI made significant progress in extending its networks and promoting the right to information in the region.

In **Bangladesh**, CHRI has an ongoing partnership with Manusher Jonno to create civil society demand for a legally guaranteed access to information regime. CHRI began by resourcing a large meeting of Manusher Jomo partners and media in December. It was meant to raise awareness and kick start a civil society campaign to lobby the government to take up the issue. CHRI also agreed to provide publications for the campaign and has updated its flagship right to information publication, *Open Sesame - Looking for the Right to Information in the Commonwealth* which Manusher Jomo are now translating into Bangla. CHRI has reviewed the Government's Law Commission paper on Freedom of Information for Manusher Jonno and helped Manusher Jomo improve their own draft Freedom of Information Bill which they are now using to lobby government.

In the **Maldives**, in response to articles in the press outlining the Government's intention to draft an FOI Bill, CHRI wrote to the Government setting out key principles that should underpin any FOI law and encouraging the Government to engage in a public consultation process. CHRI has also published an RTI advocacy article as a part of the on-line edition of the national newspaper.

In **Pakistan**, on the request of the Centre for Peace and Development Initiatives (CPDI), one of CHRI's RTI partners in Pakistan, CHRI arranged a week-long visit to Delhi for a delegation of five representatives from different Pakistani civil society organisations, including CPDI, the Pakistan Human Rights Commission, a consumer rights organisation, and a media group. Feedback from participants was very positive. CPDI is already planning to hold a national conference on RTI and has requested CHRI's assistance. In support of CPDI's broader transparency work, CHRI has also written to key MPs calling for greater transparency in parliamentary committee proceedings.

In **Sri Lanka**, CHRI's work has been limited owing to the increasing tensions between the government and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam opposition group, though it has maintained contact with its key partners there, especially the Law and Society Trust.

## **3.2 Right to information - India**

### **3.2.1 Overview**

After the enactment of *The Right to Information Act, 2005* on 12 October 2005 the work in India has changed in character from being advocacy concentrated on developing a good law to encouraging the Central and the State Governments to implement the law, civil society to use the law and monitor the implementation of the law. In this first year CHRI's energies have gone into pushing governments to set up information commissions and access regimes, training civil servants and leaderships of large non-government organisation networks and closely tracking the implementation of the Act across the Centre and States as well as occasionally testing it to ensure that the Right to Information Act is being implemented in its true spirit.

### **3.2.2 Activities**

CHRI has been closely tracking the implementation of the RTI Act and has been vigilant in ensuring that the RTI Act is being implemented in its true spirit. Our ongoing advocacy efforts include writing to the Central Government

and a number of state governments where fees or appeal rules are unjust and burdensome on the requestor, ensuring that appointment procedures for Information Commissioners are fair, resisting efforts by bureaucrats to narrow the scope of the law by attempting to exclude file notings and key security and defence agencies. Our efforts have been shared widely with our civil society partners and networks across the country. All advocacy letters have also been uploaded on CHRI's updated RTI India webpage.

CHRI has also been in touch with the Central Information Commission and the State Information Commissions of Karnataka, Punjab, Orissa and Chhattisgarh urging them to put in place adequate systems for handling complaints and appeals, and that they generally monitor the implementation of the RTI Act in their jurisdictions. CHRI has also been invited to give advice to the Policy Advisory Group of the Standing Conference on Public Enterprises – a conservative body of 256 Public Sector Units (PSUs). This sub-committee will prepare a policy paper and toolkits for PSUs to implement the RTI Act.

CHRI developed simple and pragmatic guidelines for the use of officers tasked with dealing with information requests and appeals under the Act. This has been a valuable addition to the existing body of knowledge on implementation of the transparency law given the fact that governments themselves have not issued such guidelines across the board. CHRI's guidelines and teaching materials have been used and replicated several times over by governments and training institutes all across the country.

### **Providing technical support to Information Commissions**

CHRI has also been in touch with the Central Information Commission and the State Information Commissions of Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Tripura, Punjab, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu besides others to sensitise them to put in place adequate systems for handling complaints, appeals and more importantly monitor the implementation of the Right to Information Act in their jurisdictions. Significantly, CHRI has been recognised by the Punjab Information Commission as a key resource organisation for training on the right to information.

### **Training and sensitisation of government officials**

CHRI has been recognised as a resource organisation for conducting trainings for government officials at the centre as well as in the states. Soon after the enactment of the right to information law, several state governments approached us to conduct training workshops for senior government officials as well as officers tasked with providing information to requesters. CHRI was invited to resource five initial training workshops for officers of the central government organised by the Institute of Secretariat Training and Management. CHRI in collaboration with the state government and their respective Administrative Training Institutes conducted training workshops for officers in Uttaranchal, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Tripura, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Delhi and West Bengal. Many of the trainings were conducted immediately after the enactment of the right to information legislation and CHRI continues to be invited as resource persons for conducting training for government officers. This is in tune with the fulfilment of CHRI's objective to capacity build implementers of this law.



### **Training and sensitisation of managers and executives of public sector enterprises**

Besides providing training support, CHRI has also been invited to give advice to the Policy Advisory Group of the Standing Conference on Public Enterprises (SCOPE) – a consultative body of 256 public sector units for implementing the Right to Information Act in these corporate bodies. In collaboration with SCOPE CHRI conducted a two-day seminar on implementing the Right to Information Act for the benefit of senior managers of more than 40 public sector units. CHRI has been invited to participate as resource persons in several training workshops for public sector units organised by the Industrial Management Academy, New Delhi.

### **Capacity building of civil society organisations and the media on the right to information**

In March 2006, CHRI organised a National Conference to Review the Working of the Right to Information Act in collaboration with the Indian Social Institute. The Conference brought together representatives of civil society organisations, people's movements and the voluntary sector from 20 states to discuss problems arising out of poor implementation of the Right to Information Act. The 12-point resolution passed by participants called upon governments to implement the Act more seriously. The participants have been following up on the implementation of the Act in their respective states and are writing to us on the progress made. Another outcome of this Conference was that CHRI managed to forge partnerships with organisations from various states. One such partnership was with civil society organisations in West Bengal, which led to the initiation of collaborative efforts in that state.

CHRI was invited to resource several training programmes organised by other non-government organisations on the right to information during this year. CHRI representatives taught the provisions of the Right to Information Act to more than 500 civil society representatives, who are partners in the Poorest Area Civil Society (PACS) Programme (supported by DFID) in Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, and Madhya Pradesh (combined with Chhattisgarh).

CHRI has conducted sensitisation sessions for journalists on the provisions of the Right to Information Act. A brief in-house awareness building session was conducted for the benefit of reporters and editorial staff of *The Hindu* – a national daily. CHRI has also conducted training sessions for students of journalism and mass communications on the value of using the right to information in their work. Illustrative case studies sourced from Commonwealth countries are found to be useful to inspire these budding media persons.

### **Development of Right to Information Hubs**

A stated objective of the strategy to promote the right to information is to create hubs which will replicate CHRI's work in the states, share its vision and partner with it to create a strong sustainable movement that protects this right. CHRI has been in partnership with external collaborators in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Karnataka as part of this strategy. Each of these is further



along the line toward independent operations. Their technical expertise is increasingly being relied upon by private individuals, civil society organisations and government officers. They are conducting a series of public education events as well as building and strengthening networks of non-government organisations, catalysing them to work on issues around the right to information.

**Madhya Pradesh:** During this year the *Madhya Pradesh Suchna Adhikar Abhiyan Network* began the task of spreading awareness about the Act amongst common people by holding information camps at weekly bazaars and large festive gatherings. The right to information hub has also started providing trouble-shooting advice to information requesters who face difficulties while accessing information from public authorities. The intensive public education programmes and the monitoring of right to information implementation have yielded positive results. Recommendations for better implementation of the Act put together by representatives of the Madhya Pradesh right to information network were incorporated in the clarifications and guidelines issued by Government early this year.

**Chhattisgarh:** The right to information hub in Chhattisgarh is increasingly being relied upon for capacity building as well as technical support by the government, the Information Commission and citizens. During this year CHRI's external collaborator was called upon by other non-government organisations to provide training to their staff and partners resource their on-going training programmes. He was invited to conduct training programmes for members of Municipalities and Panchayats (rural local self governing bodies). He has held training workshops specifically targeting rural journalists in Chhattisgarh. The right to information hub is fast becoming a resource centre for civil society organisations and citizens who seek information and guidance about the transparency law.

**Karnataka:** CHRI's external collaborator has been very active this year in spreading public awareness about this Act as well as sensitising government officials about their roles and responsibilities under this law. He resourced training workshops for civil society organisations organised by the Karnataka Administrative Training Institute at Mysore. He was invited as a resource person for training programmes for Public Information Officers from different public authorities across the country organised by the National Institute of Public Administration at Bangalore. He has resourced training programmes for officers organised by the District Training Institutes in Bangalore. He has also been invited to be the chief resource person for training officers of the Bangalore Municipal Corporation, elected representative of local self governing bodies at the district level and senior officers of the Secretariat in Karnataka.

He has also written and published a series of articles on issues related to the right to information to encourage debate on the performance of public authorities under the Right to Information Act. The articles deal with case studies, implementation status of the right to information in departments and important decisions of the Information Commissions at the Centre and the State. He has also been assisting right to information applicants by supplying documents, case studies, application formats, address details of public information officers and the Information Commission.

**Gujarat:** The right to information intervention in Gujarat expanded a great deal after the initial two-day sensitisation workshop on the right to information in November 2005, for the community groups that CHRI's Gujarat office has been working with. This has been followed by several other educational events on the right to information. CHRI was invited to lecture presentations on the Right to Information Act by the Law Department of the MS University, Baroda and by the Arts and Commerce colleges at Kalol and Halol in Panchmahals district. Paralegals trained by CHRI on the right to information have been successfully using this law in the larger public interest in order to compel the authorities to work according to lawful procedures. CHRI has documented their efforts in the form of case studies and disseminated them widely through the print and electronic media. Some of these stories have been uploaded in the website of the Central Information Commission with a view to inspire the larger public.

### **Using the media to promote awareness about right to information**

As part of right to information promotional activity, CHRI commissioned the production and broadcast of 15- minute radio programmes along with jingles and promos focused on the Right to Information Act. These episodes were aired from 29 stations of All India Radio in the Hindi speaking states covering close to 50% of the country's population. In order to get feedback from the listeners and to assist them on their queries related to the right to information, a Post Box Number was advertised. As a result of these promotional activities CHRI has receives queries via email, telephone calls and personal visits from individual citizens who have difficulty accessing information from public authorities. Additionally CHRI receives requests for assistance in interpreting various provisions of the Right to Information Act from government departments and public service units.

Audio-visual spots were also produced for television encouraging citizens to use the right to information.

CHRI staff is frequently invited by TV channels and radio programmers to make presentations on the Right to Information Act and also play a trouble shooting role by answering people's queries about accessing information from public authorities.

### **3.2.3 Impact**

Through its numerous advocacy interventions for the adoption of right to information laws where they do not already exist and for better implementation of laws which have recently taken shape, CHRI is increasingly being recognised as a reliable resource to depend upon, by governments and civil society networks alike. CHRI's inputs based on comparative research of international best practices have considerably added to the scope and strength of right to information legislation passed or being considered in different parts of the Commonwealth. The considerably large number of requests for help with drafting the law from government and civil society, and for advice on implementing the law have provided CHRI with the opportunity to enrich its own understanding of right to information legislation and also contribute in a tangible way to the emerging Commonwealth wide demand for transparency in administration and accountability in governance.

## **4 CHRI AND THE MEDIA**

### **4.1 Overview**

CHRI has, in addition to narrow casting of its messages to the public through workshops, publications and pamphlets, worked to develop a strong capability to access and influence mass media. The objective is to create increased knowledge of constitutional values and create a culture of human rights. CHRI does this through a) creating products for dissemination; b) persuading radio and TV to address human rights concerns; c) bringing human rights values, discussions and debates into people's homes through their infusion into popular radio and TV shows.

Two years ago CHRI created a specialised Media and Communications unit to ensure that its human rights concerns were highlighted across the many diverse lands of the Commonwealth. The Unit has developed an annual communications strategy, with specific activities and processes decided in order to achieve objectives. Quantifiable targets like number of press appearances are prioritised and evaluated on a monthly basis. In this way, CHRI's achievements are more tangible and measurable, and it builds in feedback into the program design.

The Unit has been able to increase the geographic spread and show a demonstrable progression in publications across varied jurisdictions, and has made significant strides towards bringing greater visibility and wider out reach for the issues CHRI advocates.

### **4.2 Activities**

The Media Unit targets both the print and the electronic media within India, though from this year and especially in relation to right to know day, CHRI has targeted television and radio producers. Staff encouraged anchors to air programmes around issues of concern by giving them backgrounders and drawing attention to unusual aspects of an issue. Staff has also published articles, appear regularly on popular talk shows and group discussions on radio and television. CHRI has published 59 articles in India and the Commonwealth, and racked up 13 television appearances, 3 radio programmes and 3 interviews. The Africa Office is very well networked with the media and the coordinators are sought after as experts in the field.

Illustratively, in the past year CHRI has produced a series of media products.

- a 13 part radio national series on the right to information led to demands for assistance with filing right to information applications;
- a 13 part regional radio series on legal literacy;
- 5 television spots to educate people on constitutional values aired on national TV;
- a 20 second radio spot about right to information;
- 30 to 60 second spots on good policing - aired to audiences at popular cinema houses;
- 5 radio spots for national radio on citizen's rights vis a vis the police.

### **Using events**

Prior to and during CHRI events, the Media Unit ensures that the press and television know not only that the event is taking place, but provides them with a

background to the issue, and gets them to talk to other experts present. The issue-focus has yielded results. Timely press and background notes to editors and producers around evolving issues such as the birth of the United Nations Human Rights Council ease their research and make them more likely to broadcast the item.

### **Internet**

In addition to CHRI's own website, its electronic magazine *Commonwealth PoliceWatch* and listserv, it has used the internet effectively to disseminate its media products. Illustratively, the radio series on the right to information was uploaded on Voice of Ambition, a website managed by and for non-resident Indians all over the world. Besides several hundred downloads, the programme got a 4 star rating from listeners.

### **Website**

CHRI's website is constantly updated and new features are added on to reflect its expanding programmes, strategic directions and resources developed.

The right to information User Guide and other publications developed by CHRI have been included in the right to information India section. The state pages have been recast to become a one-stop resource for surfers seeking specific information on the implementation of the Act in any state.

In the police reforms portion, pacific and international sections have been added and the Chattisgarh project pages have been overhauled.

A feedback form has been added to the website as part of CHRI's endeavour for constant improvement of content and style, and to increase the circulation of the newsletter and *Commonwealth PoliceWatch*.

A link to the audio files of the complete series of CHRI's radio programme on the right to information, *Ab To Hum Janenge* has been added to the home page.

### **Newsletter**

CHRI gets a high number of requests for subscription to its mailing list for the electronic version of its newsletter from its ever-expanding international network, while it also get postcards requesting us to send hard copies from faraway Indian towns.

### **Publications**

CHRI has as usual been prolific in the creation of publications. They include:

#### **Human Rights Advocacy in the Commonwealth: A User's Handbook**

To assist people unfamiliar with the Commonwealth to understand how best to engage it CHRI published a short booklet *Human Rights Advocacy in the Commonwealth: A User's Handbook* at the end of 2005. The booklet explains the Commonwealth in simple terms and makes suggestions of how activists can go about using the Commonwealth system for their advocacy.

### **Training module for the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association**

Also in 2005, CHRI developed a tailor-made human rights module for Parliamentarians for the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA). This is now up on CHRI and CPA's websites and is being disseminated. The module is composed of 10 individual units that cover basic information about human rights and the international and regional systems designed to protect them.

### ***Commonwealth PoliceWatch* electronic magazine**

During the past year, editions of the *Commonwealth PoliceWatch*, CHRI's electronic magazine on policing were circulated to 1700 readers across the Commonwealth. *PoliceWatch* is also posted on its own domain on the internet. Each edition has seen a substantial increase in the number of hits on its website.

### ***Your Guide to Using the Right to Information Act, 2005***

The *User Guide on the Right to Information Act, India, 2005* has been disseminated through civil society networks in the states and through academic institutions with particular emphasis on departments of law, social work and political science. CHRI has had several requests from citizens, non-government organisations and Information Commissions requesting for more copies of this publication.

### **A series of guidance notes on the Right to Information Act for implementers**

These are technical publications targeted primarily at information commissions and public officials to assist them understand their role and function and the norms and criteria to be applied in their work.



## 5 AFRICA OFFICE

The Africa office has established itself as a strong presence on the human rights horizon in Ghana and the Africa region and is now poised to play a more substantive role. It has a devoted and dynamic team.

Since its opening in 2001, CHRI Africa has successfully pursued numerous objectives in Ghana and West Africa. The Africa office has become largely self-sufficient, due to the professionalism of its staff and the quality of its work. CHRI Africa has advocacy capacity and networking capacity to achieve its goals and is steadily building its research capacity. It has been assisted by interns from the Teaching Projects Abroad project of the United Kingdom and Canada's CIDA programme.

Advocacy has been at the core of CHRI's activities in Ghana for five years. Although Police Accountability and the Right to Information are the main focus areas of the office, CHRI's Regional Coordinator and Police Accountability Coordinator are frequently seen in the newspaper and on television and heard on the radio, advocating and addressing various different human rights abuses. The office has also organised several meetings with key stakeholders to advocate on right to information issues.

It is a credit to the staff and Executive Committee that the Africa office has managed to exploit a small resource base to achieve strong accomplishments, most notably successfully pressuring the government to reappoint a lapsed Police Council and also successfully pressuring the President to assent to the *Persons with Disabilities Bill*. By the end of the year, the office will have moved out of its current premises at the British Council and into its own accommodation. Even as it gains more of an identity of its own, CHRI Africa will retain some of the benefits it gained from sharing accommodation with the British Council, such as project collaboration.

### 5.1 Police reforms

The first full year of the Ghana office's police accountability programme was extremely successful, culminating in the reappointment of a Police Council. The Police Council is a Constitutional police oversight mechanism – the previous Council lapsed with the end of the last Presidential term. The Ghana office advocated strongly for its reconstitution. It addressed Parliament, engaged with media and generally raised the profile of the issue. Following the reappointment of the Council, the Ghana office has focused on getting the government to draw up a National Policing Policy for Ghana.

**Parliamentary statement.** Flowing from the meeting with the Parliamentary Committee on Defence and Interior, a member of the Committee, Hon. Nii Amasa Namoale, was scheduled to make a statement on the floor of Parliament on the need to improve police-civilian relations a call on the President to appoint the Police Council as soon as possible. The statement dealt with police accountability issues, police-civilian relations and the establishment of the Police Council.



**Advocacy campaign – new Police Council.** One of the major advocacy campaigns of the CHRI Africa Office has been persistent requests to the President to appoint a new Police Council which the President acceded to.

CHRI Africa issued a statement on the appointment of the Council, welcoming the membership of the Council to this important constitutional office. The statement, among others, called on the new Police Council to formulate a national policy on Policing in Ghana. The statement also urged the President to follow up the appointment of the Council with the appointment of the Regional Police Committees which assisted the Police Council in its work as required by the Constitution. The CHRI also sent a congratulatory letter to the President on the appointment of the Council.

**Police-public hearing.** The rationale behind a police-public hearing was to make the Ghana Police Service more accountable to the public. CHRI sought to achieve this by involving the community in both entering into dialogue with the police, and learning from them. The event was historic in that it was the first time a public hearing on the police was held in Ghana. The hearing was chaired by Anna Bossman, Acting Commissioner of the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ). Other speakers at the function were Sam Okudzeto, Chairman of the International Advisory Commission of CHRI, Sam Asante Antwi and Kwaku Kyei, members of the Council of State, and Mr Ato Kwamena Dadzie, Country Manager of the Journalists for Human Rights.

Some organisations represented at the public hearing were the Ghana Police Service, the Customs, Excise and Preventive Service, the Ghana Immigration Service, the Ghana Federation of the Disabled and the Ga Traditional Council.

A positive outcome of the public hearing was the reaction of the Ghana Police Service a week after the hearing was held. In a newspaper report the following week, the police were quoted as saying that it welcomed any formal complaints from the public on incidents of misconduct against personnel of the service. All complaints were directed to the newly created Police Intelligence and Professional Standards Bureau (PIPS) of the police.

**Radio.** On 18 March 2006 Edmund Foley was invited as a guest panellist on the radio programme, “A Point of Law” on CITI FM, an Accra-based radio station to discuss the limits on the use of force by police officers in fighting crime. Mr. Foley used the opportunity to call for the establishment of guidelines for the Ghana Police Service on the use of firearms, particularly on operations to combat armed robbery and other violent crimes.

**Bureau of National Investigations and CHRI.** Due to meetings with the Minister of National Security on Police accountability and human rights Issues, the Director of the Bureau of National Investigations in Ghana has invited CHRI to their national conference for senior intelligence officers to present a paper on human rights and security issues in Ghana.

## **5.2 Right to information**

Ghana does not yet have access to information legislation; nevertheless a law is on the anvil. CHRI Africa has spearheaded the formation of a coalition on right to information with membership from a range of civil society, media and government organisations. The coalition meets monthly to strategise on the direction of its

advocacy and to exchange information on the status of its campaign. The sole constraint which keeps the coalition from performing to its full potential is a lack of funding.

CHRI Africa decided a two-pronged approach was necessary for the successful implementation of the proposed right to information law. The organisation will act as a traditional pressure group, performing lobbying activities and maintaining a high profile during the legislative process, but will also engage in educating the public about the right to information.

A series of regional seminars sponsored by the British Council were held across the country during the review period. The seminars were held in areas accessible to a significant portion of the Ghanaian population. To this point there have been seminars in seven of the ten geographical regions of Ghana. In 2005, CHRI and coalition members compiled a critique of the draft right to information Bill, which is awaiting approval from Cabinet. In its introduction, the critique outlined the nine principles established by CHRI internationally as necessary for inclusion in good right to information legislation, then went on to point out the shortcomings of the proposed Bill. The bulk of the critique was a section-by-section analysis of the Bill, with 55 comprehensive recommendations for improving almost every aspect of the Bill. Copies of the critique have been disseminated to a number of individuals and organisations.

As part of its lobbying strategy CHRI has had meetings with key Members of Parliament, including members of the Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee. Over the course of the last three years, CHRI has discussed the draft right to information bill with the majority and minority leaders of Parliament respectively, the Minister of Information, the government Spokesperson on Governance, the Legal and Constitutional Committee for Parliament, the Head of the Legislative Drafting Committee for Ghana and many other high-ranking officials.

### **Media and publicity**

CHRI continues to write articles on right to information for publication in local and regional newspapers. It has held radio interviews with various radio stations broadcasting in different parts of Ghana and in both English and local languages. Television stations have shown interest in the various conferences, often showing speeches from key speakers such as state ministers. The effect has been tremendous and has helped the right to information become a talking point among everyday, ordinary Ghanaians.

The Regional Coordinator has been invited to speak at the following conferences on the subject of Freedom of Information in Africa:

- Commonwealth Secretariat Accountability Meeting - Nairobi, April 2005
- World bank Conference - Ghana
- Commonwealth Lawyers Association – United Kingdom
- 52<sup>nd</sup> Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Conference - Nigeria
- African Regional Conference on Right to Information by Mediarights Agenda and Open Society Initiative – Nigeria

### **5.3 Human rights advocacy**

#### **Domestic Violence Coalition**

CHRI's activities with network partners continued during the year under review. Notable among the partners was the Domestic Violence Bill Coalition. CHRI took part in most of its activities, with the Coordinator presenting papers at some of the meetings organised by the Coalition.

#### **Good governance lectures with the British Council**

It was originally agreed with the British Council that CHRI would hold four public lectures in conjunction with the Council as part of the government's annual governance work. However, after the first lecture on voting rights of people with disabilities in Ghana, they indicated that they had no funds to continue with the lectures.

#### **Human rights lectures**

In early July CHRI collaborated with the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ) and the Ghana Bar Association (GBA) for a week of human rights activities. The objective of the programme was to highlight the status of human rights in Ghana. It was also to assess human rights enforcement mechanisms, the role of CHRAJ and the role of the Judiciary. A public lecture was organised by the three institutions on 12 July, 2005, on the theme, 'The situation of human rights in Ghana, accessing trends from 2000-2004'. There were four papers presented at the public lecture which could be adapted for publications.

The lecture was attended by 300-350 people, consisting of civil society, lawyers, professionals and traditional leaders. This was complemented by TV and radio programmes to discuss the issues and it was widely reported in the papers.

#### **Presentations on human rights**

The Coordinator was guest speaker at different workshops and conferences where she made presentations on matters relating to human rights. The papers she prepared and delivered were:

- 'Concept of Human Rights and the history of human rights',
- 'The role of the Ghanaian Christian in upholding human rights',
- 'Human rights reporting and the media; case studies and litigation in Ghana',
- 'Human rights defenders in Africa and the CHRI advocacy work',
- 'Human rights and HIV/AIDS',
- 'Some critical human rights issues affecting women in Ghana', and
- 'Gender, human rights and development in Ghana'

#### **Work on the African Peer Review Mechanism and the Open Society Initiative AFRIMAP Report**

Ghana was the first African country to accede to the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) under the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). The review exercise was to assess the state of governance in the country. The review of Ghana has ranked the country as a role model for other African countries to emulate.

CHRI, as a civil society organisation, participated actively in the programmes of the APRM. Particularly, CHRI drafted the human rights section of the APRM report. The Coordinator attended and contributed to the majority of the workshops and conferences organised by the Governing Council of the APRM around the ranking. CHRI Africa also assisted with the drafting of a section on access to justice.

#### **5.4 CHRI internship programme**

CHRI has over the past year hosted several international volunteers. The interns hailed from Germany, Canada, South Africa, the United States, the United Kingdom and the Malawi. The interns made significant contributions to CHRI's work during the year. Specific tasks included research, administration, synthesising civil society criticisms of the right to information law and writing articles. Published work included:

- 'The right to access information in Ghana; the Bill in the making', by Jenny Holligan and Susie Smith
- 'Use of force by the Ghana police: Unbridled or reasonable?', by Robert Wakula and Ochill Kingham
- 'Alhaji Issah Mobillah and extra judicial killing in the aftermath of the 2004 elections in Ghana', and 'The issue of spoiled ballots', by Kate Fraser
- 'Hate speech - What does it mean to Ghanaians?', by Mariam Mangera
- 'The conditions of prisons', by Sally Heady
- 'Right to Information, we don't have it and we need it', by Anne McShane
- 'The Optional Protocol on the Convention Against Torture', by Colleen Hobson

Mariam Mangera also monitored the judicial system in Ghana. The aim of this exercise was to determine the time frame for delivering justice in the Ghana Judicial system.

#### **5.5 Networking**

Networking with other non-government organisations has been one of the major tools used by CHRI for its advocacy work. The Africa office continued to maintain its strong links with national, regional and international civil society organisations, by taking part in policy forums and workshops. Some of the national organisations include the Ghana Centre for Democratic Development, the Institute of Economic Affairs, the Ark Foundation, the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice and the Ghana Bar Association.

Among the regional institutions CHRI maintained good working relationship with were the West Africa Civil Society Forum, the Media Foundation for West Africa, Women in Law and Development in Africa and the Institute of Strategic Studies in South Africa.

Some of the international institutions and non-government organisations that CHRI Africa worked with include the International Centre for Enterprise and Sustainable Development, Amnesty International Ghana, Transparency International, Open Democracy Advisory Centre, UN Missions in Ghana, the Canadian High Commission and the United States Embassy.

## **Sexual reproductive rights and HIV/AIDS**

CHRI Africa completed extensive work in this area over the past year. The Coordinator presented papers at different workshops and seminars on abortion and reproductive rights issues and HIV/AIDS. Some of the papers presented include 'Reproductive rights issues as human rights', 'Conventions, policies and laws on Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health (ASRH)' and 'Relating domestic violence to ASRH rights in Ghana', among others.

### **5.6 International conferences and workshops**

The Coordinator attended the Pan African Forum on the Commonwealth Principles of Accountability and Relationships in Nairobi, Kenya and presented a paper on 'The role of the media and freedom of information legislation in Africa'. Also, at the African Women Millennium Initiative on Poverty and Human Rights held in Kenya, the Coordinator presented a paper on 'Achieving the millennium development goals in Ghana'.

The Coordinator presented a paper at the Commonwealth Law 2005 Conference in London on 'Assessing the development and implementation of the freedom of information legislation in the Commonwealth: challenges and prospects'.

The Coordinator was invited to speak at the final plenary of the 52<sup>nd</sup> conference of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association held in Abuja, Nigeria.

The Coordinator also presented a paper at a West Africa Open Society Initiative conference on the role of law and law related institutions in the evolution of women's rights in West Africa.

CHRI held an African regional conference on police accountability in the Commonwealth in October 2005. Participants attended from South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Kenya, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, India and Malawi. Representatives from the United Kingdom, Australia and Ghana also attended. It was a two-day conference that saw the participants draft a communiqué for the Commonwealth Law Ministers Meeting in Accra later in the year. On the night before the conference, CHRI launched its comparative report on policing in the Commonwealth, *Police Accountability: Too Important to Neglect, Too Urgent to Delay* for the Africa region. Following the conference, the Coordinator presented a statement to the Commonwealth Law Ministers meeting on the need for advocacy within the Commonwealth on police accountability.

### **5.7 Gender work**

CHRI Africa has also undertaken some work on gender. The Coordinator made presentations at seminars, workshops and programmes on gender related issues and called for greater involvement of women at all levels of occupation in the country. The presentations she made during the year include:

- 'An overview of Gender Analysis and Gender Budgeting' at a Commonwealth Parliamentary Association workshop on Strategies for Pro-poor Budgeting
- 'Gender, Human Rights and Legal issues' at a training workshop organised by Gender Development Institute



- 'Gender, Human Rights and Development in Ghana' at a Centre for Democracy and Development lecture
- 'Gender and Criminal Prosecutions' at a National Police training course
- 'The Relevance of Gender Budgeting in Economic Policy Making' at an Ark Foundation workshop in Accra
- 'Gender Relations and the Law in Ghana' at a Centre for Democracy and Development lecture
- 'Rights of Women in our Society'
- 'Legal and Policy Framework on Abortion in Ghana' at a media training work shop on reproductive health and unsafe abortion in Ghana organised by the Population Reference Bureau.

#### **5.8 Presentations at other programmes**

- 'The Situation of the Human Rights in Ghana' at an orientation programme for International Volunteers of the Journalists for Human Rights
- 'Mechanisms for domestication of the Additional Protocol to the African Charter on the Human and Peoples Rights in Ghana' at a two day workshop organised by Women in Law and Development in Africa
- 'Empowering the Youth of Dade Kotopon to face the challenges of the future' at a day's workshop organised by the Office of Parliament, Dade Kotopon Constituency
- 'Legal, Social and Health challenges to Society by Problem Families in Contemporary Ghana'

#### **5.9 Promoting the Commonwealth**

The CHRI Africa office has organised the Commonwealth Week Celebrations in Ghana for the past two years.

#### **5.10 Networking and outreach**

CHRI is considered a specialist in the fields of police accountability, civil liberties, right to information and the views of the Coordinators are often sought out as can be seen by the number of TV and radio interviews and appearances completed. CHRI Africa has an excellent relationship with the media and works with its contacts to draw attention to important human rights issues and lobby government officials into action. The interaction between the media and CHRI is an important tool in combating human rights abuses; abuses are combated by drawing attention to the abuses, shaming the perpetrators, creating awareness of the rights of Ghanaians and creating public pressure and provide redress when abuses occur.

## **6 THE LONDON OFFICE**

### **CHOGM 2005**

In November 2005, London staff attended a meeting organised by the Commonwealth Foundation to share information with civil society regarding logistics at the Malta CHOGM and People's Forum.

Redrafted versions of post-Vienna assessment paper and the comparative paper on anti-terror legislation in Canada, UK, and Australia versus the Commonwealth model legislation were completed for dissemination at the Commonwealth Human Rights Forum.

### **Submissions and interventions**

The London Office submitted recommendations to the Northern Ireland Office in regard to a public consultation process about the powers of the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission, relying on the Paris Principles and examples from Commonwealth jurisdictions. This also served as a follow up to CHRI's submission three years prior on the occasion of the Northern Ireland Commission's establishment.

Letters urging support for a Commonwealth Expert Group on Policing were sent to David Cameron, Leader of the Opposition; Nick Herbert, Shadow Minister for Policing, and Chris Fox, Association of Chief Police Officers of England Wales and Northern Ireland. Staff also spoke with the Commonwealth desk officer at the Canadian High Commission.

### **Project work**

#### **Liaison work and outreach**

In February 2006 CHRI met with the Association for the Prevention of Torture in Geneva to identify potential areas of cooperation including the 2007 CHOGM Report and the Commonwealth Expert Group on Policing.

In March 2006, CHRI met with staff from the Association for the Prevention of Torture and the Commonwealth Secretariat's Human Rights Unit to discuss potential joint priorities regarding Commonwealth states' ratification of the United Nations Convention and Optional Protocol against Torture. Copies of the 2005 and 2003 CHOGM reports were left at the Secretariat for the Human Rights Unit.

Stephanie Aiyagari visited CHRI's Delhi Office in March, reported on London activities over the past year to the Executive Committee and discussed personnel and administration policies with Administration staff at headquarters.

The London Office explored possible projects with a number of organisations and individuals during the year including a right to information case book with Interrights, a potential fact-finding mission to Zimbabwe in partnership with the Bar Human Rights Committee, an Expert Group on Policing in collaboration with the Commonwealth Policy Studies Unit and the Secretariat, and a judicial education project with the International Bar Association.

## **Workshops and conferences**

In March Trustee Committee Member Dr. Neville Linton delivered a presentation at the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission's annual conference on governance on the importance of the right to information to enable civil society engagement.

Also in March London staff attended a human rights conference at the London School of Economics where lawyers, sociologists and social anthropologists examined interdisciplinary approaches to promoting human rights.



## 7 Institutional

### 7.1 Governing Bodies

#### 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.	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 Ex-officio	Female



## 7.2 Staff

### HEADQUARTERS, INDIA

#### **DIRECTOR'S OFFICE**

**Ms. Pratibha Nagia:** *Executive Assistant to the Director*

**Ms. Mary Rendell:** *Volunteer*

#### **HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCACY PROGRAMME**

**Ms. Clare Doube:** *Coordinator - Strategic Planning and Programmes*

**Mr. Andrew Galea Debono:** *Consultant for Advocacy Programme*

**Ms. Aditi Datta:** *Media Officer*

**Ms Swati Kapoor:** *Media and Communication Officer.*

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

**Ms. Charmaine Rodrigues:** *Project Coordinator, Right to Information Programme, International.*

**Mr. Venkatesh Nayak:** *Project Coordinator, Constitutionalism and Right to Information, India Programme*

**Ms. Tapasi Sil:** *Project Officer, Right to Information Programme*

**Ms. Sohini Paul:** *Project Officer, Right to Information Programme*

**Ms. Mandakini Devasher:** *Project Assistant, Right to Information Programme*

**Mr. Indra Jeet Mistry:** *Consultant, RTI*

**Mr. Y. G. Muralidharan:** *External Collaborator, Access to Information Programme, Karnataka, India.*

**Mr. Prateek Pandey:** *External Collaborator, Right To Information Programme in Chhattisgarh, India.*

**Mr Rakesh Ranjan:** *External Collaborator, RTI, MP*

**Ms Gitanjali Gurung:** *Intern*

#### **ACCESS TO JUSTICE PROGRAMME**

**Mr. G. P Joshi:** *Coordinator, Access to Justice Programme*

**Dr. Doel Mukerjee:** *Project Coordinator, Access to Justice.*

#### **Police Reforms**

**Ms. Swati Mehta:** *Consultant, Access To Justice Programme*

**Ms. Monika Saroha:** *Project Assistant, Access to Justice Programme*

**Ms Simi Susan Joseph:** *Project Assistant, Access to Justice Programme*

**Ms Caroline Avanzo:** *Volunteer*

**Ms. Ashirbani Dutta:** *Project Assistant, Access to Justice Programme*

**Mr. Daniel Woods:** *Consultant, Access to Justice Programme.*

**Ms. Sabine Zander:** *An Intern, Access to Justice Pgoramme*

**Ms Charlotte Chompff:** *Intern, Police Reforms*

#### **Chhattisgarh Project**

**Mr. Sumit Kumar:** *Project Assistant, Chhattisgarh*

**Mr. Anshuman Jha:** *Project Assistant, Chhattisgarh*

**Mr. Shashank Thakur:** *Part-time Consultant, Police Reforms, Chhatisgarh Project*

### ***Gujarat Project***

**Ms. Navaz Kotwal:** *Project Coordinator, Gujarat*

**Sonal Thakkar:** *Program Assistant, Gujarat*

**Hanif Sheikh –** *Project Consultant, Gujarat*

### ***Prison Reforms***

**Mr. R.K. Saxena:** *Consultant, Rajasthan*

**Ms. Yousa Lachenpa:** *Project Assistant, Access to Justice Programme*

**Mr Murali Karnam:** *Consultant, Andhra Pradesh*

### ***Judicial Exchange***

**Mr. Mandeep S. Tiwana:** *Consultant, Judicial Exchange Project*

### ***ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF***

**Mr. H. Nadkarni:** *Manager, Finance and Administration*

**Mr. N.P. Ramachandran:** *Senior Administrative Officer*

**Mr. K S Rautela:** *Senior Accounts Officer*

**Ms. Renu Rawat:** *Accounts Assistant.*

**Mr. Swayam Cheta Mohanty:** *Network Administrator*

**Mr. Chenthilkumar Paramasivam:** *Consultant (Publication Designing)*

**Ms. Anshu Tejpal:** *Assistant–Information and Web Management*

**Mr. Subhash Kumar Patra:** *Office Assistant*

**Ms. P. Ajay Babu:** *Office Assistant*

**Ms. R. Rajeshwari:** *Office Help.*

**Mr. Sunil Kumar Chhattriya :** *Office Assistant, Chhatisgarh*

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

**Ms. Stephanie Aiyagari:** *London Liaison Officer*

**Mr. Justin Foxworthy:** *Administrative Assistant*

**Ms. Karolin Silfver:** *Intern*

**Ms Esther Gaegaming:** *Volunteer*

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

**Ms. Nana Oye Lithur:** *Programme Co-ordinator*

**Mr. Edem Kodzo Honu:** *Administrative Assistant*

**Mr. Joseph Kingham Ochill:** *Administrative Assistant (Accounts)*

**Mr. Edmund Amarkwei Foley:** *Project Coordinator, Police Accountability Project.*

**Ms. Adjoa Agyeman:** *Intern*

**Ms. Sarai Chisala:** *Intern*

**Ms Cynthia Delali Noviewoo:** *Administrative Assistant*

**CHRI PUBLICATIONS 2005**

- ⇒ [Report of the Roundtable Conference on "Police that we want"](#) (2005), New Delhi - Swati Mehta.
- ⇒ [Killing Justice: Vigilantism In Nagpur](#) (2005), Swati Mehta, Edited by Maja Daruwala, CHRI.
- ⇒ [Human Rights and Policing: Landmark Supreme Court Directives & National Human Rights Commission Guidelines](#) (2005), Mandeep Tiwana, Edited by Maja Daruwala, CHRI.
- ⇒ [Workshop report on Media on Police Reforms](#) (2005), New Delhi - Vaishali Mishra.
- ⇒ [Report of the Kerala Police Performance and Accountability Commission](#) (2005).
- ⇒ [Police Accountability : Too Important to Neglect, Too Urgent to Delay](#) (2005), CHRI.
- ⇒ [A Review of the Kenya Police Force Budget and its Effect on Crime Management](#) (2005), CHRI.
- ⇒ [Handbook for Prison Visitors in Telugu \(Jailu Sandharsakula Karadeepika\)](#) (2005) - Dr. Murali Karnam
- ⇒ [Prison Visiting System in Andhra Pradesh](#) (2005) - Dr. Murali Karnam
- ⇒ [Prison Visiting System in India](#) (2005) - R.K. Saxena
- ⇒ [Human Rights Module for Parliamentarians](#) (2005), CHRI-CPA.
- ⇒ [Human Rights Advocacy in the Commonwealth: A User's Handbook](#) (2005), CHRI.
- ⇒ [Analysis of the Pakistan National Commission for Human Rights Bill](#) (2005), CHRI.
- ⇒ [Chennai Judicial Exchange on Access to Justice](#) (2005), Mandeep Tiwana (Rapporteur) and Sara Hossain (Editor)
- ⇒ [Police Accountability : Too Important to Neglect, Too Urgent to Delay](#) (2005)

**LIST OF ARTICLES PUBLISHED BY CHRI APRIL 2005 – MARCH 2006**

- ⇒ [Stealing Money meant for Children](#) by Dr Rakesh Ranjan, Voice of Ambition, 30 March 2006.
- ⇒ [Kenyan Media Freedom Goes Up in Smoke](#) by Clare Doube, Voice of Ambition, 30 March 2006.
- ⇒ [Using the Commonwealth for more than Fun and Games](#) by Andrew Galea Debono, Voice of Ambition, 30 March 2006.
- ⇒ [Access to answer papers under RTI Act](#) by Mandakini Devasher, The Hindu, 26 March 2006.
- ⇒ [Commonwealth Should Hold Gov'ts Accountable](#) by Aditi Datta, Post News Line, 14 March 2006.
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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 31st March, 2006 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 31st March, 2006 and
- (ii) in the case of the income and expenditure account, of the surplus of its accounting year ending on 31st March, 2006.

The prescribed particulars are annexed hereto.



Place : New Delhi  
Date : 07-07-2006

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

*Sanjay Agrawal*  
( SANJAY AGRAWAL )  
Partner

**ANNEXURE**  
**STATEMENT OF PARTICULARS**  
COMMONWEALTH HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVE, NEW DELHI  
ASSESSMENT YEAR 2006-07

**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. 2,13,53,290/-
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. 2,58,155/-
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 : 07-07-2006



# COMMONWEALTH HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVE



CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET AS ON MARCH 31, 2006

LIABILITIES				ASSETS			
Previous Year	Particulars		Amount Rs.		Particulars		Amount Rs.
21,984,620	<b>General Fund</b>			2,028,635	<b>Fixed Assets</b> (As per Schedule-1)		2,663,780
	Balance as per last year	21,984,620					
	Add: Fixed Assets purchased during the year	775,569					
			22,877,920	7,624,178	<b>Current Assets</b>		
	Add: Excess of Income over Expenditure	117,731			<b>a) Fixed Deposits</b>		
9,050,000	<b>Special Project Funds u/s 11 (2)</b>			2,448,756	- HDFC Bank	2,991,575	
	Balance as per last year	9,050,000		9,056,689	- HUDCO	-	
	Less: Utilised during the year (As per Schedule - 3 )	8,400,000	650,000	5,909,593	- State Bank of India	9,028,622	
					- ICICI Bank Ltd	6,223,581	18,243,778
					<b>b) Bank Balance</b>		
					In accounts with :		
				1,746,847	- State Bank of India	2,233,559	
				303,164	- HDFC Bank	309,242	
				660,360	- Bank of India	157,032	2,699,833
31,034,620	Total c/f		23,527,920	29,778,222	Total c/f		23,607,391



LIABILITIES				ASSETS			
Previous Year	Particulars		Amount Rs.	Previous Year	Particulars		Amount Rs.
31,034,620	Total b/f		23,527,920	29,778,222	Total b/f		23,607,391
	<b>Current Liabilities :</b>				<b>c) Cash Balances</b>		
318,764	Sundry creditors for expenses		883,164	36,934	- Cash in hand	45,292	
				8,676	- Foreign currency in hand	16,307	61,599
				7,795	<b>d) Tax Deducted at Source</b>		17,360
					<b>e) Sundry Debtors</b>		
				1,521,757	Receivable in- cash or in kind ( considered good )		724,734
<b>31,353,384</b>	<b>Total</b>		<b>24,411,084</b>	<b>31,353,384</b>	<b>Total</b>		<b>24,411,084</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 : 07/07/2006

# COMMONWEALTH HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVE



## CONSOLIDATED INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2006

Previous year	Expenditure	Amount Rs.	Previous Year	Income	Amount Rs.
	<b>Grantwise Expenses - As per Schedule -2</b>			<b>Grant Receipts</b>	
325,116	British Council - Publication of Poverty Report	6,215	328,067	British High Commission - Access to Justice - Gujarat	4,457,623
-	British High Commission - Effective Implementation of RTI Laws in India	3,553,342	-	British High Commission - National Conference on Right to Information	980,776
3,231,930	British High Commission-Access to Justice-Gujarat	4,206,685	-	British High Commission - Effective Implementation of RTI Laws in India	836,356
-	British High Commission- National Conference on RTI	1,088,404	-	British Council	50340
5,620	Commonwealth of Australia - Fiji Justice Sector Programme	16,965	-	- Publication of Poverty Report	
-	Commonwealth Foundation - Police Workshop in Ghana and HRF meeting	1,201,426	-	Commonwealth Foundation - Police Workshop in Ghana and HRF meeting	392,850
563,584	Friedrich Naumann Stiftung - Building awareness on Right to Information	561,826	-	Commonwealth of Australia - Fiji Justice Sector Programme	457,058
2,217,641	Ford Foundation- New York - Institutional Grant	2,951,270	563,584	Friedrich Naumann Stiftung - Building awareness on the Right to Information	561,826
601,006	Ford Foundation - India -Constitutional Reforms	3,736,358	5,725,213	Ford Foundation - New York - Institutional Grant	5,476,150
587,034	INTERIGHTS - Judicial Colloquium	151,334	2,000,000	Swiss Agency for Develop. & Cooperation - Police Reforms - Chattisgarh	1,955,000
440,248	NZ Agency for International Development - Right to Information programme-Pacific	111,859	2,268,444	Trustee Committee- Police Reforms - East Africa	2,046,180
1,397,096	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation - Police Reforms - Chattisgarh	2,463,170	1,117,200	NZ Agency for Intl. Development	
			242,146	- Right to Information programme - Pacific Law & Society Trust-Traning Programme of South Asia NGO's	-
<b>9,369,275</b>	<b>Total c/f</b>	<b>20,048,854</b>	<b>12,244,654</b>	<b>Total c/f</b>	<b>17,214,159</b>





	Expenditure	Amount Rs.	Previous Year	Income	Amount Rs.
9,369,275	Total b/f	20,048,854	12,244,654	Total b/f	17,214,159
266,912	Trustee Committee - AC Meeting	307,138	768,180	INTERIGHTS - Judicial Colloquium	-
1,141,619	Trustee Committee - East Africa Project	905,861	100,000	Ministry of Home Affairs - Human Rights Education	455,000
100,000	Ministry of Home Affairs - Human Rights Education	138,797	149,200	National Commission for Women - Study of Women in Custodial Establishments	101,667
250,867	National Commission for Women - Study of Women in Custodial Establishments	-	10,600,000	Sir Dorabji Tata Trust - Institutional Grant	2,500,000
5,252,218	Sir Dorabji Tata Trust - Institutional Grant	7,505,412		Other Receipts	
30,000	British High Commission - Round Table Conference	-	1,098,297	Interest on :	
158,274	Ford Foundation - India - Institutional Grant	-		- Fixed Deposits ( TDS - 17,360/-)	1,206,568
106,214	Canadian High Commission - Human Rights Regional Cooperation	-	104,775	- Saving Accounts	81,173
180,000	Commonwealth Parliamentary Association- Human Rights Module	-	8,984	Miscellaneous Receipts	9,793
5,416	FCO's - Challenge Fund - CHOGM Report	-	-	Sale of books	6,085
210,334	Law & Society Trust-Training Programme of South Asia NGO's	-			
42,314	Trustee Committee - CHOGM Expenses	-			
17,113,443	Total c/f	28,906,062	25,074,090	Total c/f	21,574,445



	Expenditure		Amount Rs.	Previous Year	Income		Amount Rs.
17,113,443	Total b/f	28,906,062		25,074,090	Total b/f		21,574,445
776,610	Australian High Commission - Police reforms - Chattisgarh	-					
126,970	British High Commission - Human Rights Advocacy Curriculum	-					
236,419	Other Expenses	71,659					
		<b>28,977,721</b>					
2,406,215	Less : Amount utilised out of Special Project fund u/s 11 (2) as per schedule - 3	8,400,000	20,577,721				
443,783	Fixed Assets transferred to Balance Sheet out of Grants- As per Sch.-1		775,569				
-	Loss on sale of Assets		103,424				
5,000,000	To Special Project Fund u/s 11 (2)		-				
3,783,080	Excess of Income over Expenditure transferred to General Fund		117,731				
<b>25,074,090</b>	<b>Total</b>		<b>21,574,445</b>	<b>25,074,090</b>	<b>Total</b>		<b>21,574,445</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]*

*[Signature]*

Chairperson & Treasurer      Director



Place : New Delhi

Date : 07/07/2006