



## Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative

The Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI) is an independent, non-partisan, international non-governmental organisation, mandated to ensure the *practical* realisation of human rights in the countries of the Commonwealth. In 1987, several Commonwealth professional associations founded CHRI. They believed that while the Commonwealth provided member countries a shared set of values and legal principles from which to work and provided a forum within which to promote human rights, there was little focus on the issues of human rights within the Commonwealth.

The objectives of CHRI are to promote awareness of and adherence to the Commonwealth Harare Principles, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other internationally recognised human rights instruments, as well as domestic instruments supporting human rights in Commonwealth member states.

Through its reports and periodic investigations, CHRI continually draws attention to progress and setbacks to human rights in Commonwealth countries. In advocating for approaches and measures to prevent human rights abuses, CHRI addresses the Commonwealth Secretariat, member governments and civil society associations. Through its public education programmes, policy dialogues, comparative research, advocacy and networking, CHRI's approach throughout is to act as a catalyst around its priority issues.

The nature of CHRI's sponsoring organisations allows for a national presence and an international network.\* These professionals can also steer public policy by incorporating human rights norms into their own work and act as a conduit to disseminate human rights information, standards and practices. These groups also bring local knowledge, can access policy makers, highlight issues, and act in concert to promote human rights.

CHRI is based in New Delhi, India, and has offices in London, UK, and Accra, Ghana.

International Advisory Commission: Yashpal Ghai – Chairperson; *Members:* Alison Duxbury, Neville Linton, Vivek Maru, Edward Mortimer, Sam Okudzeto, B.G. Verghese, Maja Daruwala

Executive Committee (India): B.G. Verghese – Chairperson; *Members:* B. K. Chandrashekar, Nitin Desai, Wajahat Habibullah, Harivansh, Sanjoy Hazarika, Kamal Kumar, Poonam Muttreja, Ruma Pal, A.P. Shah, Maja Daruwala

Executive Committee (Ghana): Sam Okudzeto – Chairperson; *Members:* Akoto Ampaw, Neville Linton, B.G. Verghese, Maja Daruwala

Executive Committee (UK): Neville Linton – Chairperson; *Members:* Richard Bourne, Meenakshi Dhar, Derek Ingram, Claire Martin, Syed Sharfuddin, Joe Silva, Michael Stone, Sally-Ann Wilson

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## **PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS: 2012-13**

### **STRATEGIC INITIATIVES**

#### **Commonwealth Reforms**

A steady area of focus for CHRI has been the Commonwealth reform process. This reform effort in many ways represents what CHRI has struggled for since its creation. For example one positive outcome of the reforms last year was Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (CMAG) reform that produced the new guidelines, which have recognised that the mandate of CMAG goes beyond responding when there is 'unconstitutional overthrow of a democratically-elected government', and requires it to take note of situations where Commonwealth values are under serious threat. Even though it may not be up to CHRI's full satisfaction, it is a major step in the right direction and a victory for CHRI's prolonged advocacy on CMAG over the last decade. All of this will come undone if such improvements are not implemented. The Commonwealth, which accounts for 30% of the world's population, has for the first time drawn up a charter that details 16 core beliefs, which was adopted by all 54 member states in December. The top two values are Democracy and Human Rights and reiterates "We support the role of the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group to address promptly and effectively all instances of serious or persistent violations of Commonwealth values without any fear or favour". CHRI also continues to follow-up on the recommendations of the Eminent Persons Group on Commonwealth reform. We are also bringing out a report on the EPG recommendation for a Commonwealth Commissioner for Human Rights, Democracy and Rule of Law.

#### **Sri Lanka**

Another big concern for CHRI has been Sri Lanka as the host of Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting 2013. CHRI has held that if Sri Lanka goes on to host CHOGM 2013 without any scrutiny, it will greatly undermine Commonwealth values, the newly adopted Commonwealth Charter (that puts human rights front and centre), and the on-going Commonwealth reform effort. It will undermine the association's credibility and all other international efforts to hold Sri Lanka accountable. Sri Lanka on the other hand will get to Chair the Commonwealth till 2015 making the association *persona non grata* in the human rights world at least for the next few years.

Concerned at the lack of response and indeed rejection of any accountability for credible allegations of human rights abuse and war crimes, in this reporting period CHRI played an active role on Sri Lanka in partnership with Sri Lankan and international groups persisting with the demand for accountability and justice. CHRI wrote several letters to the Commonwealth Secretary-General, raised attention early this year to the impeachment of the Sri Lankan Chief Justice and intensified its campaign on the March 2013 UN Human Rights Council resolution on Sri Lanka, as well as CHOGM 2013. After the March resolution on Sri Lanka passed at the UNHRC, CHRI is focusing attention on CHOGM 2013, and has been active in advocating with Commonwealth governments and in the media.

We ask that the Commonwealth not ignore or down play the serious violations that took place in Sri Lanka. We feel that given the new charter and CMAGs self expanded role the Commonwealth should hold its iconic meeting elsewhere or at least lay down benchmarks for Sri Lanka to demonstrate its willingness to comply with the fundamental principles of the Commonwealth. As well that the Commonwealth uphold the Latimer House Principles that require independence of the judiciary assured by member states. The impeachment of the Chief Justice casts grave doubts on Sri Lanka's willingness to abide by fundamental principles. CHRI has brought this forcefully to the attention of the EPG, the Commonwealth Secretariat (Com Sec) and members of CMAG. While our efforts have increased attention to these matters at the UN, within the Com Sec and in the media world wide the Com Sec and in particular the Secretary General have not been willing to fulfil their mandates with the rigour this test case requires.

### **UNHRC – UPR**

CHRI continues to make submissions at the Universal Periodic Review on different Commonwealth countries. So far 19 such submissions have been made in both the first and the current second cycle of the UPR. Recent submissions were on Bangladesh, Cameroon, Ghana, Malaysia, Mauritius and Nigeria. CHRI is also studying specific aspects of discussions on the Council such as the debate on traditional values and the stand Commonwealth countries take. CHRI is also studying the first cycle of the UPR and the performance of all past Commonwealth members of the UNHRC. CHRI is also slated to release the final edition of 'Easier Said than Done' after which all the books of the series together will cover the performance of Commonwealth members in the first five years of the UNHRC.

### **LGBTI**

Our engagement with State discrimination against this group continues to evolve as issues arise. Our concentration is in Africa. In the reporting period CHRI has written to the Commonwealth Secretary General and in the media on various occasions about violations that people faced in countries such as Uganda and Nigeria due to the criminalisation of same sex activity. At the first session of the UNHRC this year CHRI also made a written submission on the rights of LGBTI people given that the Council was scheduled to have a panel discussion on this issue. CHRI also has co-signed international civil society initiatives at the UNHRC on this topic. In addition to this, CHRI has begun to include the rights of LGBTI people and the status of decriminalisation of same sex activity into its UPR submissions.

### **Africa Focus**

CHRI been conscious to produce more articles on the Commonwealth and human rights for the African press. Between August 2012 and February 2013, CHRI wrote to the Commonwealth Secretary-General on the Gambia, Malawi and Uganda. CHRI has made submissions on Zambia's Constitutional review, written in the media about discriminative anti-LGBTI legislation in Nigeria, freedom of assembly and expression in Tanzania, and the repression of civil and political rights in Swaziland. CHRI also wrote to Members of Parliament in Uganda encouraging them to pass the proposed anti-torture legislation.



Currently CHRI is identifying and networking with civil society groups in countries such as Botswana, Malawi, and Zambia with a view to work around various issues in these countries.

CHRI made submissions to the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group on Swaziland and The Gambia and ahead of the coming CHOGM, intends to continue to advocate on the state of human rights in these countries.

## **IBSA**

In June 2012 CHRI received a one year grant from OSI for studying Indian foreign policy and human rights and the India Brazil South Africa Dialogue Forum. As a part of this project CHRI organised a meeting on IBSA in December 2012. The meeting brought together civil society groups from the three countries and discussed the possibility of raising the profile of human rights within IBSA. Discussions were poised towards planning for the upcoming IBSA Summit in Delhi in 2013. The meeting was well attended. Retired bureaucrats from the Indian Foreign Ministry contributed to a lot of discussions in separate sessions of the meetings including a one public session that was open to members of the general public. Civil society gathered at the meeting agreed on an action plan to follow up issues discussed at the meeting. CHRI will work to follow up on select issues ahead of the 2013 IBSA Summit.

## **Access to Justice – Police Reforms**

### **India**

The unfortunate rape in Delhi in December '12, and the protests that grabbed headlines all over the world, focussed more public attention on the quality of policing than ever before. CHRI could take great advantage of this to reemphasise the need for better safety and security in the city –especially in relation to women. CHRI is doing everything possible to utilise this moment of awakening to make police reforms known to all and also engage with policy level actors and force them to do more.

CHRI was invited to make submissions to the **Verma Committee** and it is gratifying to see CHRI quoted and a lot of the text throughout the entire chapter on policing inadequacies and recommendations reads like our submissions. We were asked by the Delhi police to design SOPs they could use for rape and violence against women; we now attend the last Friday of the month police meetings with the Delhi police. We worked with the India International Centre on a series of meetings that could further disseminate the recommendations of the Verma Committee report. The first meetings were better attended than the later ones. In addition there have been numerous occasions for us to be on TV and in the press.

### ***Police Complaints Authorities***

Our work is focussed largely on building capacities of the Police Complaints Authorities (PCA), building linkages between the Authorities and police leadership as well as getting civil society groups to take a far more proactive role in the working of the Authorities. CHRI held a Platform meeting in New Delhi in November 12 bringing together the PCAs, CHRI was asked to act as the Secretariat for the collective, while the PCAs decided they will convene themselves regularly and host meetings on a rotating basis. In order to

assess customer satisfaction with the PCAs CHRI has surveyed complainants with a view of bringing out a report on these new authorities. In two states, Kerala and Uttarakhand, the PCA, the police leadership and civil society –have constituted a Working Group.

## **South Asia**

### *Report - Feudal Forces 2012*

During the reporting period, the main focus of the South Asia work was research and writing of the Feudal Forces 2012. The 2012 edition will be third in the *Feudal Forces* series after 2008 and 2010. The objective of the biennial publication is to assess the pace and trends of systemic police reforms across Commonwealth South Asia and is targeted as a resource on policing in the subcontinent.

*Building Bridges: Experiments with Community Policing in South Asia, 2012:* The report looks at how community policing is understood across the region, evaluates past and ongoing experiments in Pakistan, Bangladesh, the Maldives and India, and makes recommendations for improvements.

Implementation of the Maldives Police Service Strategic Plan 2007-2011: An Analysis is another 2012 publication that took up a lot of our efforts.

### **EU Grant on police reforms, 2013-2015**

The EU grant for police reforms (to CHRI as a partner of the Friedrich Naumann Foundation) started in January 2013. The grant is for three years and covers our work in Pakistan, the Maldives, Bangladesh and India. The overarching goal of the grant is to support civil society in these countries to play a greater role in the promotion of human rights and accountable policing. Police reform initiatives are going on in each of these countries.

## **East Africa**

Our East Africa police reform programme continued to expand, consolidating regional work with the East African Community (EAC) countries, as well as strengthening specific country programmes and partnerships.

The EAC Peace and Security Secretariat, who CHRI have forged a relationship with, have strengthened and broadened their areas of work, some of which CHRI is working on in partnership with them.

In Kenya, the police reform process continued in 2012, with a new Independent Policing Oversight Authority and National Police Service Commission being established. Furthermore the new National Police Service Act became operational and an Inspector-General of Police was finally appointed. CHRI prepared summaries for the Release Political Prisoners Trust - 'Your Guide to The National Police Service Act, The National Police Service Commission Act and the Independent Policing Oversight Authority Act', which was published in June 12.

The Usalama Reforms Forum also contracted CHRI to prepare awareness materials for both the police service and the public regarding the new accountability mechanisms under the new Kenyan legislative framework. CHRI has conducted three consultations in Kenya regarding these materials, and finalised two workflow diagrams, three posters, a series of pamphlets and a pocketbook for the police.

In Tanzania, CHRI published its flagship booklet “*101 Things that You Wanted to Know About the Police but were Too Afraid to Ask*” in partnership with the Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance (CHRAGG), the Tanzanian National Human Rights Institution.

CHRI’s efforts culminated in the formation, in December 2012, of the *Haki na Usalama Forum (a forum of civil society organisations working on law and justice)* to advocate jointly for police and prison reforms in the Tanzania Constitutional Review Process. To assist in forming the Forum, CHRI prepared a background paper on how the *Usalama Reforms Forum* in Kenya has worked, and key lessons to learn, and a draft position paper and draft rules for the Forum.

CHRI also prepared a brief entitled *The Law Regarding Policing of Public Assemblies in Tanzania* to assist lawyers and civil society in understanding the laws regarding policing of demonstrations and other public assemblies in Tanzania, as the police often exceed their powers in shutting down public assemblies.

In Uganda, CHRI is partnering with the Human Rights Network of Uganda (HURINET-U) on the publication of “*101 Things that You Always Wanted to Know About the Police but were Too Afraid to Ask*” for Uganda.

### **Access to Justice – Prison Reforms**

This programme is confined to India. It is national in character with deeper interventions in Rajasthan and West Bengal. It works to ensure better responses from the criminal justice system to prisoner’s legal rights and remedies.

The programme has worked to jog the legal aid system to action. Our best impact has been the response the legal aid clinic work begun in August 2012 has engendered within the District Legal Services Authority in Jodhpur, the prisons administration and now slowly the local judiciary. Regular prison visits by the students to the Jodhpur prison prompted the DLSA to initiate weekly visits, which they did not do before though they are supposed to. The DLSA has also shown keenness to respond to the referral cases we take to them and there are regular discussions with them on the progress.

Another demonstration we have quite determinedly undertaken to show, has been getting under trial prisoners out on personal bond. This is routinely denied to the extent that defense lawyers don’t even try. We are constantly up against the entire legal fraternity telling us that ‘it is not the practice’. We persuaded our Jodhpur based lawyer to try for it with 15 migrant under trials. They have all been granted bail and we think that this will set a precedent once we can disseminate the information to others.

In West Bengal, CHRI tried for the creation of Permanent Legal Aid Clinics in Correctional Homes. Pursuant to our constant persuasion, SLSA has issued directions in



January 2013 for the setting up of such clinics in all correctional homes through trained para-legal volunteers. CHRI will monitor the implementation and setup of such clinics.

We continue to try and revive the prisoner's review system that is in the hands of the prison superintendent and the district judge and are trying to keep a check on how many under trials there are lingering overlong in prison a) for want of review; b) want of a lawyer; c) despite being entitled to bail as of right.

In parallel, we have been working with defence lawyers to build capacity – that is really badly needed. Trainings are on going with constant informal dialogues

One encouraging development is that the DLSA in Jodhpur, where we work, is excited by the prospect of CHRI hosting a year-long program of upgrading their lawyers' skills. They feel that they can bring in the Bar to associate with the program. The Law School will assist with the curriculum and planning as well as the delivery of some parts. The idea is to select folks who show some inclination to working on remand and bail at the criminal bar and will likely be empanelled by the DLSA at a future time. The year long course will begin in August.

Public interest litigations in West Bengal on juveniles held in adult prisons and on convicted Bangladeshi nationals overstaying their sentence in prisons in West Bengal have seen positive results – with juveniles being sent to observation homes and provided legal aid, and the expedition of the process of repatriation in the case of the Bangladeshi nationals.

## **Access to Information**

### **South Asia**

***The 6th Learning Programme (South Asia):*** CHRI organised its sixth learning visit for representatives of CSOs from Bangladesh, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka to learn about the Indian experience with implementing its RTI Act 2005. A bonus for the participants was the opportunity to participate in the 7th Annual RTI National Convention organised by the Central Information Commission (CIC). The learning programmes have been very successful in enthusing participants to become champions of RTI in their own country.

***Maldives:*** Soon after the South Asia learning programme, CHRI was invited to the Maldives by one of the participant organisations, Transparency Maldives as an expert resource to a symposium on RTI they organised. Experts were invited from around the world to talk about the importance of establishing a robust RTI law as per international best practices. CHRI has also been requested to train people for RTI in 2013.

***Study of proactive disclosure and transparency in Municipal Corporations across three South Asian countries:*** To further the habit of transparency within governments and in an effort to test how much of what is in the law is made available proactively, CHRI commissioned a study of municipal corporations in Bangladesh (Dhaka), Pakistan (Karachi) and India (Delhi), partnering with RIB in Dhaka and Shehri CBE in Karachi. This study should be a powerful, substantive base on which we can build our advocacy for more proactive disclosure and transparency in these countries and elsewhere.

***SARTIAN (South Asia Right to Information Network):*** In August 2012 CHRI launched the web platform SARTIAN (<http://sartian.org>). The platform is designed to be a one stop resource base for RTI in South Asia and provides a platform for RTI enthusiasts and civil society members to interact and share knowledge. The network is steadily becoming a focal point of RTI advocacy in South Asia.

## **Africa**

***RTI Learning Mission to India from Liberia and Nigeria:*** CHRI hosted a high level learning mission from the African countries of Liberia and Nigeria on the “Implementation of the Right to Information Act (2005)”. The participants included Senators and House members, senior Government officials, legal practitioners, media persons, human rights activists, right to information activists, members of the academia and representatives of the Open Society Initiative for West Africa (OSIWA) and the Open Society Foundations Right to Information Fund. The Liberian Deputy Minister for Information, Culture and Tourism who attended, announced his intention to seek budgetary allocations to support the functioning of the Information Commission. In the days since he returned to Liberia, he has met with the Senate budget committee and the President of Liberia to discuss the matter. CHRI's director, Maja Daruwala, subsequently wrote to the President of Liberia, urging her to expedite the implementation of the Liberian FOI Act. At the President's request, all government departments and agencies have been mandated to appoint Public Information Officers and the status of FOI has since been placed on the agenda for the Liberian cabinet. We continue to follow these developments.

### ***Promoting the film on the proactive disclosure campaign in Gujarat:***

Urged by several in our network and particularly in South Africa to explain how proactive disclosure can benefit communities – especially rural and remote ones with little formal education, CHRI has made a film about its own experiments in one community which is now spreading. The film, ‘The Writing on the Wall’ has been edited particularly keeping in mind its reception by African CSOs. The film is now ready for dissemination and a strategy for publicising it is being worked through. Following the Learning Mission from Africa, The Federation of Liberian Youth has agreed to hold screenings of this film.

***Providing a critical analysis of the proposed FOI Bill in Kenya:*** CHRI was requested by the Katiba Institute to provide critical comments and suggestions for improvement on proposed FOI legislation in Kenya, commissioned by the Commission on Implementation. We provided our inputs as an effort to bolster the efforts of the passing of an RTI Law in the country.

## **India**

CHRI has been maintaining constant vigil upon and documented attempts to rollback the access to information regime. It alerts the RTI fraternity to such attempts through the email networks and the mass media. For instance, CHRI has been in the forefront of challenging the judgement of the Supreme Court (SC) in the Namit Sharma case, that the Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) at the Centre or State level shall only be a person who is or has been a Chief Justice of the High Court or a judge of the Supreme Court of India. CHRI filed an intervention application, when the Government of India filed a Review Petition for this judgement before the SC. The Government of India requested all email alerts that CHRI circulated analysing various aspects of this judgement as inputs for drafting its review petition. The Attorney General for India mentioned several

points contained in CHRI's email alerts before the Court while arguing for a review of the judgement. CHRI did a rapid study on the working status of the Information Commissions post *Namit Sharma* judgment to show that close to a third of the Information Commissions had halted work in its aftermath. To indicate good practice from other jurisdictions a contemporaneous study on *'Information and Privacy Commissioners: a World-wide Rapid Survey'* examined Information Commissioners globally, highlighting that only a small minority had a background in law and that the vast majority was from other, diverse backgrounds.

CHRI has also taken up the issue of watering down of RTI Rules in the states of Jammu& Kashmir and Uttarakhand and advocated for measures to protect RTI users and whistle blowers from violent attacks.

CHRI has endeavoured to use RTI as a tool to reform the criminal justice system, developed templates for proactive disclosure of information at police stations along with our local partner in Gujarat; built capacity of civil society groups on RTI in Jammu & Kashmir, documented success stories; provided technical advice and research assistance to the Information Commissions of Jammu and Kashmir, Chhattisgarh and Kerala.

We have also filed RTI applications to get important information in the public domain, including Standing Orders of the Delhi Police relating to handling of sexual offences

CHRI was invited to present a paper the success and challenges of implementing the RTI Act in India at the 10th World Conference of the International Ombudsmen Institute.

Some new publications brought out include: *The Right to Information: An Aid for Litigation* for lawyers and human rights defenders; *Your Guide to Using the Jammu and Kashmir Right to Information Act 2009* and *Analysis of Landmark RTI Orders and Judgments*.

**CHRI Publications 2012-13**

[RTI User Guide for Jammu & Kashmir](#) based on the RTI Act 2009 in English, CHRI.

[The Right to Information: An Aid for Litigation](#), CHRI

[RTI User Guide for India based on the RTI Act 2005 in English](#), CHRI

[Implementation of the Maldives Police Service Strategic Plan 2007-2011: An Analysis](#)  
written by Devyani Srivastava and Navaz Kotwal, CHRI

[UNDERTRIALS - A LONG WAIT TO JUSTICE](#) (2012), CHRI



## CHRI IN THE MEDIA (HEADQUARTERS): APRIL 2012 – MARCH 2013

### **STAFF ARTICLES**

[The Emperor's New Clothes: The New Commonwealth Charter and CHOGM in Sri Lanka](#), The Standard Times Press', by Maja Daruwala, 26 March, 2013.

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[A Police That We Want](#), *Greater Kashmir*, by Navaz Kotwal and Muzaffar Bhatt, 26 Feb, 2013.

[Too Many Chulbul Pandeys](#), *The Indian Express*, by Maja Daruwala, 12 January 2013.

[A case for police reform](#), *The Hindu*, by Maja Daruwala and Navaz Kotwal, 23 December, 2012.

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[A New Police Act for Goa](#), *O Herald*, by Navaz Kotwal, 24 August 2012.

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[Missing the mark](#) DAWN Newspaper, By Asad Jamal and Jennifer Kishan, 10th May, 2012

[Comment: Weathering the storm - the Commonwealth and Maldives](#) MinivanNews, By R Iniyan Ilango, 5th May, 2012

[Heyns. The Final Straw For AFSPA? – OpEd](#) Eurasiareview, By Rithika Nair, May 01, 2012.

[The arrest and freedom of little Ariful](#) HardNews, By Maja Daruwala and Sana Das, May 2012.

[Out of step with reality](#) Hindustan Times, By Devika Prasad, April 27, 2012.

["Asking for it": Delhi police blame rape on the victims](#) Govt in The Lab, by Nanki Chawla, April 26, 2012.

["Asking for it": Delhi police blame rape on the victims](#) The F Word, by Nanki Chawla, April 19, 2012.

[Repression in the Gambia](#) The Daily News, By Sanyu Awori, April 27, 2012.

[The UN Human Rights Council Resolution on Sri Lanka's Alleged War Crimes](#) InPEC, By Rithika Nair, 3rd April, 2012

## **IN THE NEWS**

[60% of Delhi's mammoth police force chaperone VIPs, as rapists run riot](#) The Sunday Guardian, March 18, 2013.

[Jailed foreigners: What happens when you're not Italian marines](#) The First Post, March 14, 2013.

[Suicide prevention policies in prisons needed urgently](#) The Hindu, March 13, 2013.

[Focus on in-prison suicides](#) The Hindu, March 14, 2013.

[Why Tihar jail's 'suicide watch' failed Ram Singh](#) The First Post, March 11, 2013.

[A Police that we want](#) Greater Kashmir, February 26, 2013.

['Draconian' police bill draws flak](#) Greater Kashmir, February 26, 2013.

[Govt to outline special security zones in JK](#) Greater Kashmir, February 23, 2013.

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[CHRI Ghana call on the government to honour its constitutional obligation to provide legal aid](#) *Ghana News Agency*, October 24, 2012.

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[To disclose or not to disclose](#) *The Hindu*, June 1, 2012.

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[Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative](#) *Haryana Abtak*, May 11, 2012.

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[Free 50 juveniles from correctional homes: HC](#) *The Statesman*, May 04, 2012.

[Report on juveniles in jails sought from IG \(Prison\)](#) *Express News*, April 21, 2012.

[Bengal's shame: 50 children in jail](#) *The Statesman*, April 20, 2012.

[AFSPA notified, implemented by JK Govt: MHA](#), *Greater Kashmir*, Apr 12, 2012.

**CHRI STAFF PROFILE – 2013**

**HEADQUARTERS, INDIA**

**STRATEGIC INITIATIVES PROGRAMME**

**Mr. R. Iniyan Ilango:** *Programme Coordinator*, has an LL.M degree from the National Law School of India University, Bangalore. Iniyan developed CHRI's research and advocacy work related to UN Human Rights Council and has taken the lead on the Organisation's Commonwealth and international advocacy. He has held leading positions in the Commonwealth Peoples Forum process and from time to time acts as an expert on UPR and the UNHRC at both Commonwealth Secretariat training programmes and NGO events.

**Ms. Sanyu Awori:** *Programme Officer*, has a LLM in Human Rights Law from the University of Nottingham and completed her undergraduate law degree at the same university. Before joining CHRI, Sanyu completed a graduate internship scheme working with women asylum seekers and refugees in Nottingham. In the Strategic Initiatives Programme she is responsible for researching, monitoring and advocating for human rights in Commonwealth Africa.

**ACCESS TO INFORMATION PROGRAMME**

**Mr. Venkatesh Nayak:** *Programme Coordinator*, is presently a key public training resource on Right to Information across South Asia, Africa & the Caribbean. He has trained more than 6000 officers of government and more than 600 executives of public sector enterprises for implementing India's new transparency law. Previously a Doctoral Research Fellow in History, he has authored research and public education documents on the right to information, the basic structure of the Indian Constitution, issues of social justice, electoral reforms, efficacy of public audit mechanisms and fact-finding mission reports on human rights violations.

**Ms. Suchismita Goswami:** *Project Officer*, has a Masters in social work from the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS). She previously worked in Dantewada as a Project Leader in a project of UNICEF ensuring child rights and child protection for children in the relief camps. At CHRI, she is also the moderator of SARTIAN.

**Mr. Amikar Parwar:** *Project Officer*, has a B.A.LL.B (Hons) from Chanakya National Law University (CNLU), Patna. Before joining CHRI, Amikar has interned with Senior Advocates of Supreme Court and High Court as well as at National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), New Delhi and National Judicial Academy (NJA), Bhopal. During his undergraduate program, Amikar was a member of Editorial Board of CNLU Law Journal and has represented his University in various national and international moot court competitions. At present, Amikar is working on RTI Activities in India which includes analysis of RTI Rules, assisting in conducting RTI training workshops and publication of RTI related documents and booklets.

**Ms. Nandita Sinha:** *Research Assistant*, has bachelor's and master's degree in History from St. Stephen's College, University of Delhi. She has an LLB degree from the University of Delhi and cleared the All India Bar Exam in 2011. Before joining CHRI, she was involved in giving legal opinions for the law firm Indus Law Associates, and also taught English at the Chanakya Academy. Her work at CHRI includes researching and writing on various themes for the programme.

## ACCESS TO JUSTICE PROGRAMME

### Police Reforms

**Ms. Navaz Kotwal:** *Programme Coordinator*, holds a Masters in Microbiology. She has been with CHRI since 2000, has developed the Gujarat project after the communal violence in Gujarat, to include, besides legal assistance with cases of victims of the communal violence, paralegal and lawyers trainings, and right to information. She also coordinates the judicial colloquium programme of CHRI. She was honoured with the Nani Palkiwala Civil Liberties award, awarded a fellowship to the Bellagio study centre and was nominated to the Yale University human rights fellowship in 2008, in recognition of her untiring efforts and work in Gujarat.

**Ms. Devika Prasad:** *Senior Programme Officer*, has a bachelor's degree in political science, a master's in Comparative Legal Studies from the School of Oriental and African Studies of the University of London, and a master's in Human Rights and Criminal Justice from Queen's University Belfast. At CHRI, Devika works primarily on police reform in India, through monitoring, research and advocacy, civil society training and capacity building, and direct engagement with the police. A large emphasis of her work is strengthening police accountability, with a focus on monitoring and capacity building of Police Complaints Authorities in India.

**Ms. Devyani Srivastava:** *Consultant*, has a Bachelor's degree in Political Science (Hons.) from, Hindu College, University of Delhi and a Master's degree in International Relations from University of Warwick, UK. Following her Master's degree, she worked with the Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies, a policy analysis think-tank based in New Delhi, as a Research Officer. At IPCS, she worked on issues such as terrorism, counterterrorism, low intensity conflicts and conflict resolution. At CHRI, she works on policing issues in the South Asian region.

**Ms. Deepa Rathore:** *Administrative Assistant*, has a BA from the University of Delhi. She has more than 11 years experience in Back office.

### Prison Reforms

**Ms. Sana Das:** *Programme Coordinator*, has a Masters in Sociology from JNU, New Delhi, a background in Cultural Studies from the Centre for the Study of Culture and Society, Bangalore and is pursuing a PhD in Philosophy and Cinema from IIT, Delhi. She has worked with human rights organisations like Amnesty International, funding organisations like the Heinrich Boell Foundation and educational trusts. Her areas of experience are in human rights education, advocacy, policy and social movements' research, designing and directing educational courses, guiding youth activism, editing publications, outreach and media activities.



**Ms. Sugandha Mathur:** *Project Officer*, is a law graduate from ILS Law College, Pune, has a B.A. (Hons.) in Political Science from the University of Delhi. She also holds a Diploma in Human Rights and Law. She has also participated in the Feminist Jurisprudence course conducted by the University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia. She has previously worked with World Health Organization (WHO), on the project 'Mental Health Law and Human Rights'.

**Ms. Tripti Kanungo:** *Project Officer*, has a LLM in Human Rights Law from the University of Nottingham and BA, LLB from Gujarat National Law University, Gandhinagar. In the Prison Reforms Programme Ms. Tripti Kanungo has been assisting through research on issues, laws and standards related to prisons, prisoners' rights and human rights with focus on documentation and analysis of credible information on under trial prisoners.

**Ms. Madhurima:** *Consultant*, External Collaborator, West Bengal, is a law graduate and has a postgraduate degree of LLM in Criminal Justice from the University of Nottingham, UK. She has practised criminal law in the High Court of Madhya Pradesh. She has studied prisons in detail during her post-graduate course, which prompted her to join CHRI and work on prison reforms.

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

## **MEDIA AND COMMUNICATION**

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

**Mr. Ranjan Kumar:** *IT Officer*, has more than 10 yrs of experience in Web/System Administration and Networking. He has a Bachelor's degree and has done Red Hat Certified Engineering course from IACM, Delhi. Ranjan has worked with reputed NGOs like Deepalaya, Centre for Civil Society CCS, MIA etc. He was responsible for maintaining official websites and providing technical support.

## **PLANNING, ADMINISTRATION & ACCOUNTS**

**Mr. Mohan Sundaram:** *Manager-Administration*, has a Bachelor of Arts qualification and has several years of experience in both government and non-government organizations. He is in-charge of the overall administration of the office.

**Mr. K S Rautela:** *Manager-Accounts*, has over 10 years experience of keeping accounts in the commercial sector and is responsible for designing and implementing systems for maintaining of accounts keeping in view the statutory/donors and individual project

requirements. He oversees the audits and the day-to-day flow of finances into the programmes.

**Ms. Vinu Sampath:** *Coordinator, Planning*, holds a Doctorate in International Politics from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. She has worked for over 14 years in the development sector. She works closely with the Director on organizational matters, including reporting to and liaising with the Boards; making funding applications, following grant progress etc. She coordinates between Headquarters, and the Ghana and London offices, and provides support where needed.

**Mr. P. Prasad:** *Senior Accounts Assistant*, has a B.Com degree from Kerala University. Prasad has 13 years experience in accounts.

**Mr. Bruce Lee:** *Accounts Assistant*, has an M.Com degree from Kerala University. Bruce has 2 years experience in accounts.

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

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

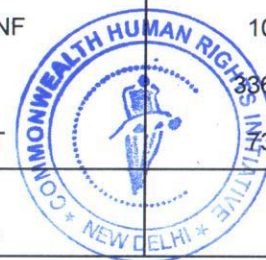
**Ms. R. Rajeshwari:** *Office Help*, who looks after hygiene and cleanliness of the office and ensures good hospitality to the visitors.

# COMMONWEALTH HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVE



## BALANCE SHEET AS ON MARCH 31, 2013 (CONSOLIDATED ACCOUNTS)

LIABILITIES				ASSETS			
As at 31.03.2012 ( Amount Rs.)	Particulars	As at 31.03.2013 ( Amount Rs.)		As at 31.03.2012 ( Amount Rs.)	Particulars	As at 31.03.2013 ( Amount Rs.)	
45,686,160	<b>General Fund</b> As per last accounts	45,686,160		5,630,423	<b>Fixed Assets</b> (As per Schedule-1)		5,719,553
	Add: Fixed Assets purchased during the year	329,568					
	Add: Excess of Income over Expenditure	7,395,658	53,411,386		<b>Current Assets</b>		
					<b>a) Fixed Deposits</b>		
	<b>SPECIAL PROJECT FUND</b> (u/s 11(2) of the Income Tax Act, 1961)			2,669,529	- Bank of India	21,111,332	
1,500,000	As per last accounts	1,500,000		-	- State Bank of India	4,304,938	
	Accumulated during the year	16,000,000	17,500,000	5,232,951	- State Bank of Travancore	5,713,914	
				-	- Vijaya Bank	16,821,725	
				16,078,862	- Syndicate Bank	-	
				15,212,006	- ICICI Bank Ltd	10,816,333	58,768,242
					<b>b) Bank Balances</b> In accounts with :		
280000	Corpus Fund		697,662	180,978	- State Bank of India	2,554,320	
				301,645	- Bank of India	1,745,089	
				-	- Bank of India-EU-FNF	10,000	
				359,506	- HDFC Bank	336,931	
				70,698	- Bank of India - SDTT	73,562	4,719,901
<b>47,466,160</b>	<b>Total c/f</b>	<b>71,609,048</b>		<b>45,736,598</b>	<b>Total c/f</b>	<b>69,207,697</b>	



LIABILITIES				ASSETS			
As at 31.03.2012 ( Amount Rs.)	Particulars	As at 31.03.2013 ( Amount Rs.)	As at 31.03.2012 ( Amount Rs.)	Particulars	As at 31.03.2013 ( Amount Rs.)		
47,466,160	Total b/f	71,609,048	45,736,598	Total b/f	69,207,697		
225,127	<b>Current Liabilities :</b> Sundry creditors for expenses	248,546	89,140	<b>c) Cash Balances</b> - Cash in hand	77,815		
			141,158	- Foreign Currency in hand	186,628		
			703,316	<b>d) Tax Deducted at Source</b>			
			1,021,075	<b>e) Sundry Debtors</b> ( Considered good, receivable in cash or in kind )			
47,691,287	Total	71,857,595	47,691,287	Total	71,857,595		

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

*[Signature]*

Treasurer

Director

Place : New Delhi

Date : 28/08/2013



# COMMONWEALTH HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVE



## INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2013

### (CONSOLIDATED ACCOUNTS)

2011-2012 ( Amount Rs.)	Expenditure	2012-2013 ( Amount Rs.)	2011-2012 ( Amount Rs.)	Income	2012-2013 ( Amount Rs.)
	<b>Grantwise Expenses : As per</b>			<b>Grant Receipts</b>	
	<b>Schedule -2</b>				
395,540	Australian High Commission- Publish a monthly tabloid for the Police Constabulary in India	54,460	450,000	The Australian High Commission- Publish a monthly tabloid for the Police Constabulary in India	-
5,085,031	British High Commission- Strengthening Police Oversight Mechanisms	-	395,000	British High Commission - Promoting equality before the law for disadvantaged groups	1,794,160
2,652,958	British High Commission-Towards Better Policing in Jammu & Kashmir	-	3,579,460	British High Commission- Strengthening Police Oversight Mechanisms	5,098,398
-	British High Commission- Police Complaints Authority, improving police accountability	5,076,811	883,257	British High Commission-Towards Better Policing in Jammu & Kashmir	1,957,817
470,925	Commonwealth Foundation- Human Rights Institutions in the Commonwealth and Pre-CHOGM Advocacy	-	470,925	Commonwealth Foundation- Human Rights Institutions in the Commonwealth and Pre-CHOGM Advocacy	-
-	EU-FNF - Civil Society and Police reforms in South Asia	974,473	3,733,993	Friedrich Naumann Stiftung - Promoting RTI and Police Reforms in South Asia	2,198,657
4,083,996	Friedrich Naumann Stiftung - Promoting RTI and Police Reforms in South Asia	2,343,217	11,101,793	Ford Foundation- New York - Institutional Grant	13,257,784
7,106,069	Ford Foundation- New York - Institutional Grant	3,364,867	-	Institute of Governance Studies - ANSA-Supporting peer knowledge on RTI through South Asia RTI Advocates Network (SARTIAN)	1,575,180
<b>19,794,519</b>	<b>Total c/f</b>	<b>11,813,828</b>	<b>20,614,428</b>	<b>Total c/f</b>	<b>25,881,996</b>





2011-2012 (Amount Rs.)	Expenditure		2012-2013 (Amount Rs.)	2011-2012 (Amount Rs.)	Income		2012-2013 (Amount Rs.)
19,794,519	Total b/f	11,813,828		20,614,428	Total b/f	25,881,996	
92,020	General Expenses	764,693		261,355	Netherland Minister for Development Cooperation-Access to Justice for Marginalised Communities with a Special Focus on Religious Minorities	-	
5,936	Institute of Governance Studies - ANSA-Supporting peer knowledge on RTI through South Asia RTI Advocates Network (SARTIAN)	2,850,352		-	OAK Foundation- Reducing Arbitrary Detention through Strengthened Oversight	6,719,570	
757,975	Netherland Minister for Development Cooperation-Access to Justice for Marginalised Communities with a Special Focus on Religious Minorities	-		7,758,037	Open Society Institute - Institutional Grant.	8,917,193	
-	OAK Foundation- Reducing Arbitrary Detention through Strengthened Oversight	444,066		-	Open Society Institute - IBSA - To facilitate experience sharing amongst civil society in three IBSA Countries.	3,122,381	
6,634,775	Open Society Institute - Institutional Grant.	11,015,242		1,719,563	Open Society Institute(SA-RTI)-Promoting effective access to information regimes in the countries of South Asia and Commonwealth Africa	4,030,364	
-	Open Society Institute - IBSA - To facilitate experience sharing amongst civil society in three IBSA Countries.	1,330,438		2,470,965	Open Society Institute-RTI Act to gather information on under-trial prisoners and the functioning of the legal aid system	3,887,706	
1,597,999	Open Society Institute(SA-RTI)-Promoting effective access to information regimes in the countries of South Asia and Commonwealth Africa	2,289,278		568,040	Open Society Institute-RTI - National Security and Access to Information	-	
361,986	Open Society Institute-RTI 09-Promoting effective access to information regimes in countries of South Asia	559,076		1,311,088	Open Society Institute-RTI 09-Promoting effective access to information regimes in countries of South Asia	-	
							52,559,210
31,523,554	Total c/f	31,066,973		34,703,476	Total c/f		52,559,210



2011-2012 ( Amount Rs.)	Expenditure		2012-2013 ( Amount Rs.)	2011-2012 ( Amount Rs.)	Income		2012-2013 ( Amount Rs.)
31,523,554	Total b/f	31,066,973		34,703,476	Total b/f		52,559,210
2,278,344	Open Society Institute-RTI Act to gather information on under-trial prisoners and the functioning of the legal aid system	4,389,499			Interest on :		
46,842	Open Society Institute-RTI - National Security and Access to Information	326,977		3,357,253	- Fixed Deposits	5,176,661	
31,570,396		35,783,449		254,873	- Saving Bank Accounts	332,584	
1,500,000	Add: Transfer to Special Project Fund (U/S 11 (2) of Income Tax Act. 1961) during the year	16,000,000	51,783,449	268,967	Miscellaneous Receipts	1,647,362	
989,795	Fixed Assets transferred to Balance Sheet out of Grants- As per contra (Schedule-1)		329,568	36,087	Sale of Books	169,505	
263,705	Loss on sale of Assets		198,338	1,100,000	Other Donations	1,000,000	8,326,112
14,118	Refund of Grant - DCP		-				
-	Refund of Grant - OSI NSAI		1,178,309				
5,382,642	Excess of Income over Expenditure transferred to General Fund		7,395,658				
39,720,656			60,885,322	39,720,656	Total		60,885,322



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

*[Signature]*  
Treasurer

*[Signature]*  
Director

Place : New Delhi

Date : 28/08/2013



# COMMONWEALTH HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVE



## RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2013

### (CONSOLIDATED ACCOUNTS)

2011-2012 ( Amount Rs.)	Receipts	2012-2013 ( Amount Rs.)	2011-2012 ( Amount Rs.)	Payments	2012-2013 ( Amount Rs.)
	<b>Opening Balance :</b>				
2,260,042	State Bank of India	180,978	3,072	Advertisement Expenses	543,350
101,277	Bank of India	301,645	35,697	Bank Charges	37,633
751,917	HDFC Bank	359,506	2,372,107	Boarding & Lodging Expenses	2,216,329
66,698	Bank of India - SDTT	70,698	67,496	Books & Periodicals	33,394
48,231	Cash in hand	89,140	2,984,918	Consultancy Charges	4,334,028
147,110	Foreign Currency in hand	141,158	1,095	Currency conversion charges	2,580
30,350,949	Fixed Deposits	39,193,348	1,198,944	Conveyance Expenses	1,182,280
			505,219	Electricity & Water Charges	634,345
			116,456	Equipment Hire Charges	60,897
<b>33,726,224</b>		<b>40,336,473</b>	9,032	Fee & Subscription	58,903
	<b>Grants Received :</b>				
450,000	Australian High Commission- Publish a monthly tabloid for the Police Constabulary in India	-	282,070	Honorarium	132,154
-	British High Commission - Promoting equality before the law for disadvantaged groups	1,794,160	201,577	Insurance Expenses-Staff	192,686
3,974,460	British High Commission- Strengthening Police Oversight Mechanisms	5,098,398	8,827	Insurance Expenses-Office	9,367
883,257	British High Commission-Towards Better Policing in Jammu & Kashmir	1,957,817	348,599	Internet Expenses	506,138
470,925	Commonwealth Foundation- Human Rights Institutions in the Commonwealth and Pre-CHOGM Advocacy	-	116,173	Legal & Professional Charges	86,776
3,733,993	Friedrich Naumann Stiftung - Promoting RTI and Police Reforms in South Asia	2,198,657	78,928	Miscellaneous Expenses	11,367
11,101,793	Ford Foundation -New York -Institutional Grant	13,257,784	618,230	Meeting Expenses	1,202,421
261,355	Netherland Minister for Development Cooperation-Access to Justice for Marginalised Communities with a Special Focus on Religious Minorities	-	381,730	Office Expenses	414,775
			691,422	Postage & Telegrams	565,472
<b>54,602,007</b>	<b>Total c/f</b>	<b>24,306,816</b>	<b>10,021,592</b>	<b>Total c/f</b>	<b>12,224,895</b>



2011-2012 ( Amount Rs.)	Receipts	2012-2013 ( Amount Rs.)	2011-2012 ( Amount Rs.)	Payments	2012-2013 ( Amount Rs.)
54,602,007	Total b/f	24,306,816	10,021,592	Total b/f	12,224,895
-	Open Society Institute - IBSA - To facilitate experience sharing amongst civil society in three IBSA Countries.	3,122,381	806,460	Per-diem Expenses	129,330
-	Institute of Governance Studies - ANSA- Supporting peer knowledge on RTI through South Asia RTI Advocates Network (SARTIAN)	1,575,180	3,729,863	Printing & Publications	3,437,069
-	OAK Foundation- Reducing Arbitrary Detention through Strengthened Oversight	6,719,570	-	Software Expenses	10,800
2,470,965	Open Society Institute-RTI Act to gather information on under-trial prisoners and the functioning of the legal aid	3,887,708	2,111,986	Rent,Rates & Taxes	2,200,287
568,040	Open Society Institute-RTI - National Security and Access to Information	-	46,849	Recruitment Expenses	32,792
7,758,037	Open Society Institute - Institutional Grant.	8,917,193	748,098	Repair & Maintenance	470,189
1,311,088	Open Society Institute-RTI 09-Promoting effective access to information regimes in countries of South Asia	4,030,364	10,076,950	Salary & Benefits	12,018,438
1,719,563	Open Society Institute(SA-RTI)-Promoting effective access to information regimes in the countries of South Asia and Commonwealth Africa	-	28	Short & Excess Recovery A/c	-
68,429,700		52,559,212	109,624	Security Expenses	79,943
	<b>Other Receipts</b>		370,862	Telephone Expenses	394,714
3,357,252	Interest :		3,196,153	Travelling Expenses	4,432,496
254,872	Interest on Fixed Deposits	5,176,661	169,199	Visa Expenses	155,783
268,967	Interest on Savings Bank Accounts	332,584	182,730	Venue Charges	157,387
36,087	Miscellaneous Receipts	1,647,362	-	Web Designing Expenses	39,326
86,700	Sale of books	169,505	139,575	Air Conditioners	-
-	Sale of Assets	42,100	553,180	Computer and Printers	9,724
1,100,000	Corpus Donations	417,662	40,000	Furniture & Fixture	-
	Other Donations	1,000,000	180,540	Office Equipment	16,749
			4,800	Software	20,995
73,533,578	Total c/f	101,681,559	32,488,489	Total c/f	35,830,917





2011-2012 ( Amount Rs.)	Receipts	2012-2013 ( Amount Rs.)	2011-2012 ( Amount Rs.)	Payments	2012-2013 ( Amount Rs.)
73,533,578	Total b/f	101,681,559	32,488,489	Total b/f	35,830,917
5,000	Increase/Decrease in Sundry Creditors	27,785	71,700	UPS , Invertor & Battery	248,600
			-	Fridge	33,500
			14,118	Refund of Grant	1,178,309
			197,602	Increase/Decrease - Sundry Debtors	661,064
			430,196	Increase/Decrease - Sundry Creditors	4,366
			-	<b>Closing Balance :</b>	
			180,978	State Bank of India	2,554,320
			301,645	Bank of India	1,745,089
			-	Bank of India - EU-FNF	10,000
			359,506	- HDFC Bank	336,931
			70,698	- Bank of India - SDTT	73,562
			89,140	Cash in hand	77,815
			141,158	Foreign currency in hand	186,628
			39,193,348	Fixed Deposits	58,768,243
73,538,578	Total	101,709,344	73,538,578	Total	101,709,344



As per our report of even date

For Awatar & Co.,  
*Sanjay Agrawal*  
 Chartered Accountants  
 (Sanjay Agrawal)  
 Partner M. N. 087786



For and on behalf of Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative

*[Signature]*  
 Chairperson

*[Signature]*  
 Treasurer

*[Signature]*  
 Director

Place : New Delhi

Date : 28/08/2013