



**HUMAN RIGHTS FOUNDATION**

2008-2009 REPORT

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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Over the past two years, HRF has proven to be an efficient and effective advocate for human rights, as well as firmly established itself as a resilient and credible organization. Combining innovative and imaginative ideas with old school, proven grassroots methods of advocacy, we have carried out successful programs in six countries, planned and executed a major international human rights conference, and worked to influence policy through major regional and international organizations. Because our work has impact, governments with appalling human rights records have waged relentless harassment campaigns against HRF.

In the Dominican Republic, HRF's campaign to expose slave plantations owned by the Fanjul and Vicini families resulted in an embarrassing bribery scandal in which Dominican diplomats paid Miami-based journalists to attack HRF.

In Ecuador, the Ministry of Justice denied legal incorporation and initiated criminal proceedings against Ecuadorean citizens who sought to create HRF-Ecuador, an independent human rights organization based in Quito, founded with HRF as its inspiration, although with a wholly independent board, staff, and program.

In Bolivia, after more than a year of the Morales government accusing HRF of being a "right-wing" organization and one of its former directors an "international terrorist," the leader of HRF-Bolivia (an independent human rights organization based in Santa Cruz founded by public intellectuals using HRF as its inspiration, although with a wholly independent board, staff, and program) was first accused of wanting to assassinate the president. Later this accusation was changed to his allegedly taking part in a secessionist plot.

We suspect Cuba is behind an attempt to injure an HRF director in New York by running him over with a motorcycle-- an incident that led to an FBI investigation.

Finally, in Venezuela, an HRF researcher was the victim of a shooting one day after being identified on state television as an "enemy of the revolution."

HRF considers these attacks indicators of our effectiveness and evidence that serious human rights violations are being exposed. Our work is presently guided by our new chairman and first president of the Czech Republic Václav Havel. Our international council has grown, with Nobel Laureate Elie Wiesel, former Estonian Prime Minister Mart Laar, Russian democracy advocate and chess grandmaster Garry Kasparov, and others now being joined by former Uzbek prisoner of conscience Mutabar Tadjibayeva, Mauritanian abolitionist Abdel Nasser Ould Yessa, Chadian human rights defender Jacqueline Moudeina, and North Korean defector Park Sang-hak.

What follows is an overview of HRF's achievements from January of 2008, to December of 2009, grouped into our nine key program areas. On behalf of my remarkable colleagues, I hope you enjoy reading about our accomplishments and we thank you for your interest in human rights.



Thor Halvorssen  
President

## MISSION AND STRATEGY

The Human Rights Foundation (HRF) is a nonpartisan advocacy group whose mission is to defend human rights in the Americas. HRF investigates and reports on human rights abuses with a special focus on civil and political rights. In the face of limited resources, we have chosen to allocate our time and efforts to countries often overlooked by the human rights community, among them: Bolivia, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Honduras, and Venezuela.



HRF promotes freedom of expression, the rule of law, free and fair elections, due process, press freedom, citizen media, internet freedom, equality before the law, religious freedom, institutional accountability, and freedom of assembly and association. We actively campaign against torture, slavery, and arbitrary imprisonment, using film, social networking sites and other new media to enhance our efforts.

HRF's strategy is to humanize human rights violations, to expose them and give names, faces, and stories to the victims of persecution and oppression. Our campaigns detail the lives of men and women living in intolerable conditions; our human rights guides transform complex legal documents into easily understood educational texts; our videos show the brutality and price of human rights violations.

HRF's work has garnered in momentum over the past two years, using unique strategies to expand operations and strengthen its influence in the Americas. Our work has gained international attention from media like *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *CNN*, *Al-Jazeera*, *Fox News*, *The Huffington Post*, and *The Economist*. More than two million people have watched our YouTube videos. HRF is successfully fulfilling its mission of defending and promoting human rights.

## BOLIVIA

A Latin American human rights hotspot—one that receives far less attention than it deserves—is Bolivia, where President Evo Morales has failed to prosecute those who practice barbaric methods of mob justice while his government engages in vicious tactics of voter intimidation and violence against political opponents.

### ■ ELECTION MONITORING

The electoral body of Santa Cruz, Bolivia's largest department (state), invited HRF to participate as a neutral, international observer of the May 4, 2008, referendum to ratify or reject Santa Cruz's statute of autonomy—a legal document (similar to a state constitution in a federal nation) aimed at decentralizing political and administrative powers from La Paz to the regions. HRF sent a delegation that attracted wall-to-wall media coverage. The OAS and the UN ignored the election failing to send electoral missions at the request of the Morales administration, which had declared the referendum illegal and called on its supporters to boycott it. Similar votes had been convened on three other Bolivian regions by democratically-elected officials and legislatures at the state level, and no court of law ever issued a ruling against them.



MONITORING BOLIVIA'S 2008 REFERENDUM VOTE

During the day of the vote, HRF visited more than 300 voting booths, witnessed vote counting at the polling station level, and observed tallying at the electoral headquarters. HRF noticed voter intimidation by individuals opposing the referendum throughout the Plan 3000 neighborhood of Santa Cruz. There, a group had broken into a polling station to steal (and later burn) its polling material. Later, in the town of Montero, HRF witnessed an assault by opponents of the referendum who used police-issued tear gas and dynamite to scare voters. One voter was wounded during a dynamite explosion and was subsequently rushed to the hospital with extensive leg injuries. Another polling station was forcibly shut down by a mob and the voting ballots and bins were burned. HRF photographed the incidents, took significant oral testimony, and collected used tear gas containers belonging to those trying to frighten voters as evidence.

HRF was able to certify the election results, concluding that it was a clean, free and fair referendum. Of the 558,252 valid votes in the election, 85.6 percent were in favor of approving the statute of autonomy, thus deepening the ongoing political and administrative decentralization process in Bolivia.

## ■ ■ POLITICAL VIOLENCE

As 2008 wore on, HRF-Bolivia, an independent human rights organization based in Santa Cruz founded by public intellectuals with HRF as its inspiration, although with a wholly independent board, staff, and program, became a powerful player in the local human rights arena, spurred on by HRF's campaign to free political prisoner Amauris Samartino, its communal justice report, and the electoral observation mission sent to Bolivia. After the September 11-13 riots and violent clashes between government supporters and detractors, which claimed 21 lives and left hundreds of people injured throughout Bolivia, HRF released a report detailing the crisis and President Morales's role in it; he had incited political violence and racial hatred by repeatedly labeling citizens that oppose his policies and regional opposition leaders as "racists," "fascists," "separatists," "traitors," and calling on his followers to "defend the revolution" from these "fascists and racists" and "be willing to die in defense of the process of revolutionary change."

HRF's report states that Morales's calls for supporters to "die" in "defense of the revolution" are in direct violation of Article 13 of the American Convention of Human Rights, which prohibits any propaganda for war or racial hatred. The report blamed the physical assaults against members of the press by government supporters on the government's increasingly belligerent rhetoric. Since the beginning of Morales's presidential term in 2006, Bolivia has seen more deaths due to political violence than any other Latin American country with the exception of Colombia, where a decades-long war with the FARC has killed thousands.

## ■ ■ VIGILANTE/MOB JUSTICE

Since 2005, Bolivia has seen a dramatic increase in vigilante justice in the form of lynching, torture, stoning, and hangings. Perpetrators invariably try to disguise the egregious nature of their crimes by claiming they are examples of 'communal justice,' a legitimate mechanism for dispensing justice based on indigenous and regional norms and customs that Bolivia has officially recognized since 1996, further elaborated in the new Bolivian constitution promoted by the Morales government, which was finally approved by referendum in early 2009. Although President Morales does not officially condone these crimes, his administration has displayed gross negligence in prosecuting those who perpetrate them, instead using his control over the criminal prosecution system to target political opponents.

In late 2007, HRF produced a report on this distortion of the concept of "communal justice" that was published across Bolivia. It highlighted the government's negligence in prosecuting those who engaged in such violent acts and demanded that the government educate the public about what communal justice is. The report caused so much controversy that the Bolivian Vice Minister of Justice attacked HRF on national television and in missives sent to our New York office. This gave HRF the opportunity, in early 2008, to properly document the government's arguments and draw international attention to other radical constitutional revisions the government sought to implement.

Thanks in part to HRF's extensive reporting, the Morales government was forced to categorically reject the use of violence in the implementation of communal justice and to specify due process and human rights guarantees in its practice in the draft of the constitution. This was a human rights victory, but only a partial one. It still remains unclear how communal justice will work in practice. Moreover, Bolivian mobs continue taking justice into their own hands, citing "communal justice" as a justification for lynchings and live burials; the government continues to take a soft stance on those responsible for such acts.

## CUBA

The Cuban government is the worst violator of human rights in the hemisphere. The Castro regime continues to crush dissidents with cruel and unlawful treatment: execution, detention, torture, and rape are common tools used by the authorities. The government continues to ban independent media. Globally, Cuba ranks with North Korea and Libya among the most notorious censors of the press and is responsible for incarcerating the second highest number of journalists worldwide. The country's single-party communist regime has been in place, without a hint of democracy, for 50 years. Despite this, Cuba's civil society movement provides a ray of hope for the future.

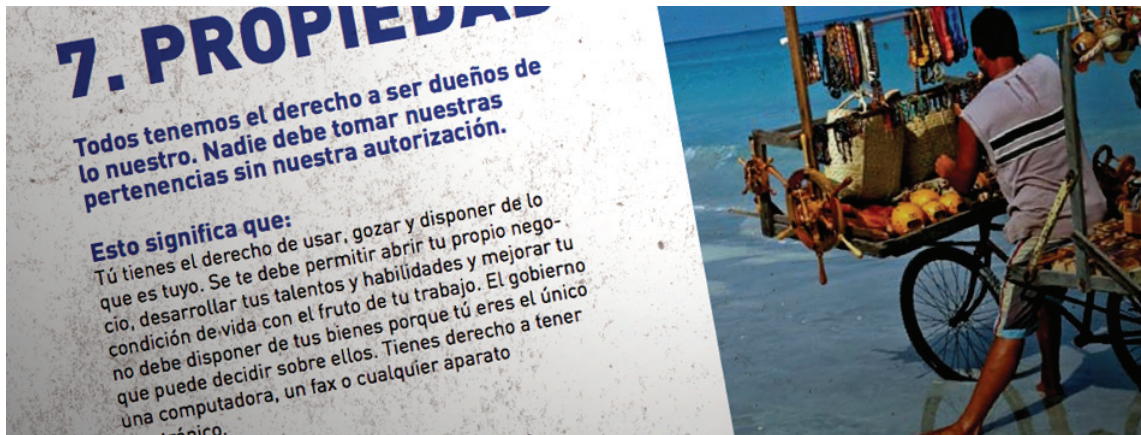
### ■ ■ SUPPORTING CIVIL SOCIETY IN CUBA

Small civil society organizations devoted to freedom and human rights do exist in Cuba; HRF has invested significant resources to provide them with aid. Over the past two years, HRF staff members have carried out eight missions to Cuba to deliver computers, DVD players, USB drives, and digital information. We have also distributed thousands of copies of *Tus Derechos Humanos* (*Your Human Rights*), an engaging and visually appealing guide written and published by HRF to inform Cuban nationals of their basic rights. It has been appropriated by informal newspapers and used as an educational textbook by local human rights groups and independent libraries.



CUBAN CIVIL SOCIETY GROUPS USE *TUS DERECHOS HERMANOS*, HRF'S GUIDE TO FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS, AS A TEXTBOOK

The use of film has also been instrumental in spreading the message of individual rights on the island. HRF has sent thousands of copies of films dealing with such subjects as individual liberty, the history of human rights, and the struggle for freedom across the world. Such films are accompanied by guides designed by HRF to stimulate discussion and dialogue about human rights and democracy. Civil society leaders have shared these films with hundreds of their compatriots and hosted film circles to discuss their content. “[T]he young people leave [the discussion sessions] wanting more,” said one of our contacts; “they have never seen anything like it,” said another. HRF has also distributed more than 3,000 audio-book copies of former political prisoner Armando Valladares’s critically-acclaimed memoir, *Against All Hope*.



HRF DISTRIBUTED THOUSANDS OF COPIES OF *TUS DERECHOS HERMANOS* (YOUR HUMAN RIGHTS)

HRF’s work has expanded the resources of independent underground libraries, introduced new and useful technology to civil society activists, and enlivened the human rights discourse throughout the country. HRF has been so influential that a simple suggestion offered by a staff member during a mission to Cuba – to demand that the government publicize the international human rights pacts it had recently signed and discuss the pacts’ contents in a public forum – became the cornerstone of a campaign by 13 different local civil society groups.

## ■■ THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT’S INTERNATIONAL IMAGE

In addition to working to enhance the capabilities of human rights defenders and civil society activists on the ground in Cuba, HRF is also challenging the Cuban regime’s rosy reputation among the international media. Two such efforts stand out: in December of 2008, HRF publicly criticized Sean Penn for his hypocrisy in receiving accolades for playing gay San Francisco councilman Harvey Milk while visiting and promoting the Castro brothers, who have brutally interned Cuba’s gays and lesbians in concentration camps. Thanks to HRF’s vigilance, Penn’s duplicity was highlighted in the *LA Times*, the *New York Post* (Page Six), *The New York Times*, and on Andrew Sullivan’s blog *The Daily Dish*, igniting a much-needed public debate on the barbarism of the Cuban regime. Second, in January of 2009, HRF called into question Hollywood’s image of Cuba when it contributed to a *Washington Times* review of Steven Soderbergh’s film, *Che*. The review, which quoted HRF extensively, excoriated the film and its lead, Benicio del Toro, for whitewashing the historical truth about the revolutionary Ernesto “Che” Guevara, an advocate for violence.



## DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

HRF produced *The Sugar Babies*, a scathing documentary that exposes the horrific human trafficking occurring across the Haitian-Dominican border and the enslavement of child workers in the Dominican Republic's sugar fields. The film is composed of gripping field testimonies and hidden camera footage obtained during 18 months of documentation. It features interviews with Raymond Joséph, ambassador of Haiti to the United States; John Miller, ambassador to the U.S. Department of States from the Office of Human Trafficking; and a number of other experts and activists.



*SUGAR BABIES, A DOCUMENTARY FILM*

The documentary was so contentious that those involved with its production were victims of an intimidation and harassment campaign, including a bribery scandal and various censorship efforts by the sugar lobby and the Dominican government. When the film was screened at Florida International University, a confrontation involving a representative of the Dominican government occurred that required the presence of several police officers.

The film depicts the Fanjul family, whose members are benefactors of human trafficking and major contributors to American presidential campaigns. At a preview screening, lawyers representing a Miami-based television station sent a cease and desist letter to FIU demanding the viewing be cancelled. Their letter asserted that about 11 minutes of the film violated copyright law; the footage used, however, runs less than one minute and meets Fair Use guidelines. The additional 10 minutes, showing the Fanjuls, was obtained privately with the use of a hidden camera and is owned by the film company.

The screening was held and was heavily attended by representatives of the Dominican government, who distributed a communiqué claiming the film was an effort to defame the Dominican Republic and its people. During the question-and-answer session that followed the viewing, Dominican Consul Manuel Almanzar and his entourage became unruly and, after police intervention, ultimately stormed out.

After months of similar confrontations, constant death threats, break-ins, and the theft of her computer equipment, director Amy Serrano had to uproot her life and move from Florida to Louisiana. The efforts of the Dominican Republic did not prevent *The Sugar Babies* from enjoying wide success. It was screened worldwide and on numerous U.S. college campuses. It won the award for “Best Documentary” at the 2008 Delray Film Festival.

Later that year, HRF staff and *The Sugar Babies* director Amy Serrano appeared on “Maria Elvira Live,” a television show that is extremely popular in the Hispanic community. Viewer demand for this controversial

SUGAR BABIES WEBSITE

segment was so strong that it was re-aired more than four times. In November of 2008, this particular episode of “Maria Elvira Live” focusing on HRF’s work won a coveted Emmy Award. In September of 2009, HRF’s activism against slavery in the Dominican Republic scored a small victory when the U.S. Department of Labor added “Sugarcane from the Dominican Republic” to its list of products believed to be made with forced or child labor.

The past few years have witnessed the precipitous deterioration of human rights in Ecuador due to President Rafael Correa's embrace of authoritarianism and disregard for basic human freedoms. Specifically, Correa has vastly expanded his power by sidelining the democratically-elected legislature, harassing opposition media voices, punishing or closing critical television or radio stations, and imprisoning his critics.

## ■ HRF PLAYS CRUCIAL ROLE IN FREEING POLITICAL PRISONER GUADALUPE LLORI

HRF's efforts to expose Correa's growing authoritarianism began in early 2008, when HRF took on the case of political prisoner Guadalupe Llori. In November of 2007, President Correa referred to Llori, who was governor of the Ecuadorean province of Orellana, as "Mama Lucha" – a slang term for a criminal figure in Ecuador. Llori responded by calling him a "vulgar goon" and a "pathetic replica of Hugo Chávez." That December, Llori was violently kidnapped by police and military forces and subsequently incarcerated. Initially, Llori was detained under charges of terrorism and sabotage; when the charges were later changed to embezzlement, it became increasingly clear that this was a case of political persecution.

HER CRIME? SHE CRITICIZED ECUADOR'S PRESIDENT.

**GUADALUPE LLORI**

POLITICAL PRISONER OF THE GOVERNMENT OF ECUADOR

**ECUADOR PERVERTS JUSTICE BY IMPRISONING OPPOSITION LEADERS**

Twenty-three people were detained following demonstrations that took place between November 26th and December 2nd, 2007 in the Amazonian province of Orellana. The strike upset oil production and enraged Ecuadorean President Rafael Correa. He held the governor of the province, Guadalupe Llori, responsible for the protests and ordered her arrest. Correa declared a state of emergency in the province, militarized the area, and used brutal force to stop the protestors. He was criticized by Governor Llori for creating a state of seige. Guadalupe Llori was then imprisoned on unsubstantiated "terrorism" charges which were dropped due to lack of evidence. Two separate charges of fraud were brought against Llori after she was in jail, to keep her in prison long enough to remove her from office. Two court rulings have set her free but the government continues to imprison her in El Inca Women's Prison in Quito, Ecuador where she was brutally beaten on July 20th. Llori denies all charges against her. The Human Rights Foundation is joined in its advocacy for Llori by Amnesty International, the International Society for Human Rights and local Ecuadorean human rights groups.

LEARN MORE ABOUT WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP FREE GUADALUPE LLORI

HUMAN RIGHTS FOUNDATION.ORG

HRF'S AD IN THE WASHINGTON EXAMINER

of his government. So effective were our efforts that Amnesty International issued an urgent action alert (borrowing heavily from HRF's work) for Llori's case and the International Society for Human Rights (ISHR) wrote a letter of appeal to Correa.

For more than nine months, the government held Llori against her will with neither substantiating evidence nor recourse to due process. During her incarceration, Llori was humiliated, beaten by prison custodians, and prohibited from seeing her family. Guadalupe Llori's case became one of the most outrageous cases of political imprisonment in Latin America, and is an overt example of Ecuador's president using his ever-growing powers to stifle dissent.

HRF's efforts to free Llori from this arbitrary and illegal imprisonment ranged from sending President Correa public letters to flying to Quito and visiting Llori in prison. HRF finally appealed to the United Nations on her behalf in September of 2008, when we presented a 17-page petition before the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention requesting Llori's immediate release. Our activities alarmed the Ecuadorean government. President Correa dispatched his ambassador to the United States and vice minister of justice to meet with HRF staff; we were asked what it would take for us to cease our criticism

In July of 2008, HRF staff attended a Washington, D.C., roundtable hosted by the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) that featured a discussion with Gustavo Larrea, Ecuador's minister of internal and external security. Though Larrea had attended the CSIS meeting to discuss the ostensible success of Ecuador's recent drug-enforcement policies, HRF used the opportunity to focus attention on Llori's case. HRF brought copies of its report on Llori, as well as Amnesty International's petition for her release and HRF's full-page plea on her behalf from that day's *Washington Examiner*. Each item was handed out to all participants, including representatives from the OAS, the U.S. Senate, the World Bank, the National Endowment for Democracy, the U.S. departments of State, Labor, and Commerce, and important regional ambassadors. HRF engineered the meeting so effectively that Larrea's focus was derailed and he was forced to deflect multiple questions on Llori's case.



FORMER HRF CHAIRMAN ARMANDO VALLADARES SPEAKS TO ECUADORIAN MEDIA

Llori was set free on September 22, 2008, after HRF exerted extensive pressure on the Ecuadorean government. Her release marked the third time HRF had won the freedom of a political prisoner. Llori's prison gate testimonial is a tribute to our work:

*Long live the Human Rights Foundation! I have been waiting for this day for a long time. I am infinitely grateful to HRF for establishing my innocence and for having defended my cause and the cause of my people. HRF was the only organization to defend and take an interest in me. Not a single human rights organization in my country bothered to assist me. Not a single international organization visited me in jail. May God bless HRF!*

## ■ ■ HRF-ECUADOR

In the late summer of 2008, notable Ecuadorean individuals founded HRF-Ecuador, an independent human rights organization based in Quito. Drawing its inspiration from HRF's mission, HRF-Ecuador defends the civil and political rights of Ecuadorean citizens, researching and publishing its findings, and raising awareness about human rights abuses occurring in the country. Headed by Andrea Tapia, a former constitutional consultant to the Congress of Ecuador and a courageous student leader, HRF-Ecuador is an independent entity with its own board, staff and program. The founders of HRF-Ecuador are currently under criminal investigation for failing to include a telephone number on a government application form. In light of several publicly humiliating incidents involving HRF, this trumped-up charge demonstrates the extent to which the Ecuadorean government will go to harass HRF-Ecuador staff and interfere with their efforts.

## HONDURAS

On June 28, 2009, after violating his country's constitution and causing the erosion of democracy in an apparent attempt to extend his time in office, the president of Honduras, Manuel Zelaya, was forcibly overthrown and exiled to Costa Rica by the military, which was likely following unwritten orders by the leaders of Congress.

Zelaya's ploy to rewrite the Honduran constitution through an "opinion poll" aimed at electing a "Constituent Assembly" had been widely condemned by virtually all democratic institutions in Honduras, including Congress, the Attorney General, and the Supreme Electoral Tribunal. The president had called the vote a "poll" seeking to circumvent judicial scrutiny based on constitutional provisions specifically forbidding this action, but, ultimately, an Administrative Court issued a preliminary injunction ordering the president to stop the vote. He repeatedly disregarded these court orders.

Although Zelaya had violated the constitution repeatedly, the June 28 moves by the military and Congress, and the Supreme Court rulings during the days that ensued, went also against constitutional provisions that call for a presidential trial with due process before the Supreme Court, and ban expatriation as a penalty in Honduras. Later on June 28, while Zelaya was already in Costa Rica, and in spite of not having constitutional powers to do so, the Congress approved a resolution formally removing Zelaya from office, and naming the president of Congress, Roberto Micheletti, as his constitutional successor. The Supreme Court, which two days later is said to have ordered the President's arrest to face criminal charges, would in January of 2010, issue a ruling approving of the military's decision to exile him, disregarding his due process rights.

In response to this set of unconstitutional actions that reached a peak on June 28, HRF was the first human rights group to condemn what it deemed as a "forcible overthrow" of the Executive's chief and the "unconstitutional interruption" of democracy, and to call on the OAS to apply the democracy clause against that country, thus being consistent with previous instances faulting the OAS for not applying the clause in cases of democratic erosion in Bolivia, Ecuador, and Venezuela.

In the months following June 28, HRF conducted extensive research to publish a legal report describing in detail the facts and the law behind the events before, during, and after June 28.

## VENEZUELA

In Venezuela, censorship is widely enforced, attacks on the press are common, judicial independence and the separation of legal powers are severely eroded, human rights defenders are routinely harassed and assaulted, and the political opposition is frequently detained and imprisoned.

### ■ ■ CARACAS NINE

In 2007, HRF began its Caracas Nine campaign to promote international awareness of human rights abuses within Venezuela. The nine cases in the campaign are emblematic of the widespread human rights violations directed against those who openly criticize the Chávez government. At the time, former judge Monica Fernandez directed HRF's Venezuelan research division and coordinated the Caracas Nine campaign. Her duties consisted of documenting the cases of political prisoners and exposing the Venezuelan government's political discrimination and persecution of dissidents.



On January 5, 2008, Judge Fernandez was kidnapped and shot at point-blank range while loading her car with her fiancé, Javier Herrera. Herrera, an off-duty municipal police officer, was shot five times while trying to prevent the attack. He killed one of the aggressors, but the other drove off with Fernandez. She was later released, and both Fernandez and Herrera were hospitalized in Caracas.

The night before she was shot, Fernandez was the subject of “La Hojilla” (“The Razor”), a government-funded TV news program that airs on the state-run Venezolana de Televisión. The host of the program, Mario Silva, showed Fernandez’s photograph and repeatedly accused her of being an enemy of the state. This was not the first time that Silva has attacked HRF and its work in Venezuela, nor was it the first time he has shown photographs of HRF personnel.

The offices of the attorney general and of the public prosecutor have yet to perform a thorough, timely, and impartial investigation of the 2008 attack on Fernandez.

The government has shown a similar lack of expediency and interest in Marta Colomina’s case. Caracas Nine dissident #4, Colombia is a Venezuelan journalist and academic who has faced death threats, several attempts on her life, and verbal harassment over the past five years. The minister of defense called her an “undesirable foreigner,” and she has been labeled a traitor on posters hung in Caracas. As she was driving to work in 2003, a group of masked men carrying automatic rifles intercepted her vehicle, blocked her path, and threw a Molotov cocktail at her car.

The Inter-American Court of Human Rights, Reporters without Borders, the Inter American Press Association, and the Committee to Protect Journalists have all condemned these violent attacks and declared that this violence aims to curtail freedom of expression in Venezuela.

In both 2002 and 2003, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights issued provisional cautionary measures on Colomina's behalf, requesting that the Venezuelan state take steps to ensure her right to life and personal integrity. The only government protection she has received was from a local opposition mayor, who gave her a police escort. In February of 2008, however, that police escort was shot at by gunmen and one of her bodyguards was shot in the mouth. As of this writing the national government has not honored the court's request. Such negligence suggests that the government of Venezuela has little interest in protecting Colomina's fundamental rights, beginning with her right to life.

Another member of the Caracas Nine whose life is in constant danger is Humberto Quintero, a lieutenant colonel of the Venezuelan National Guard. Quintero was detained in January of 2005 by the Venezuelan government for allegedly capturing terrorist leader Ricardo Gonzalez, popularly known as Rodrigo Granda, of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC).

Quintero was arrested, taken to a dungeon operated by military intelligence, and tortured by members of Venezuela's military intelligence and civilian police for seven days. During an interview with HRF inside Ramo Verde prison, Quintero explained that he was subjected to asphyxiation, beatings, and threats to kidnap his wife and daughter. He suffered internal bleeding and back pain that continued for at least a year after the beatings. Eventually, Quintero's jailers forced a confession.

During his imprisonment, he was denied access to legal counsel and medical care for several weeks after the beatings. He remains incarcerated at Ramo Verde while undergoing a second trial for the same charges.

Alberto Federico Ravell's case is another that HRF has publicized through its Caracas Nine campaign. Ravell is the general director of Globovisión, a television station whose employees have been violently attacked more than 25 times. The government has threatened to shut down the network just as it closed Radio Caracas Television (see [www.FreeRCTV.com](http://www.FreeRCTV.com)).

HRF seeks protection for Globovisión, including its employees, directors, and equipment, and urges the Venezuelan government to comply with national and international rules that protect and guarantee the exercise of human rights in Venezuela, principally the right to life, property rights, and freedom of expression.

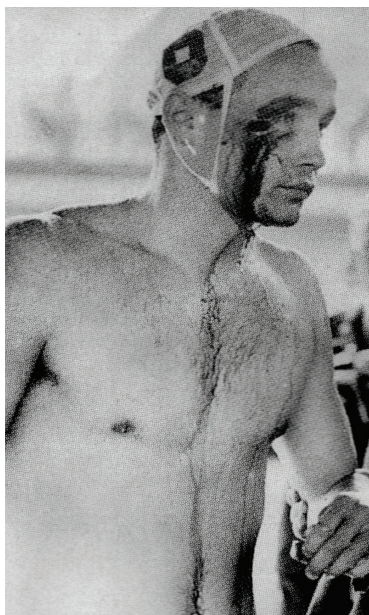
Although President Hugo Chávez signed an amnesty law in December of 2007 that ostensibly outlawed imprisonment for political reasons, Venezuelans are continually subjected to political persecution, imprisonment, torture, and other cruel treatment for opposing the government. Many of these prisoners are being held in inhumane conditions without access to medical care. Outside of Venezuela's prisons, "political inhabilitation" has been used by the regime to disqualify 400 potential candidates for office. Persons subjected to this infringement on political rights include Raul Diaz, an engineering student who spent four years in prison awaiting trial on false charges, and Ivan Simonovis, an imprisoned police commissioner denied urgent medical care despite several court orders authorizing hospital visits.

## LIBERTY FILM FESTIVAL

In March 2009, HRF staged its first ever “Liberty Film Festival” in Venezuela’s capital city of Caracas. The three-day event was a joint collaboration between HRF, the Chacao Cultural Center, and UNA, the Asociación Civil Unidad Nacional (National Unity Civic Association). HRF’s aim was to inspire, educate, and encourage discussion about human freedom. UNA spokesperson Isabela Iturriza Soules remarked:

*This event would not be possible without HRF’s generosity, patience, and guidance. For us, this is an opportunity to strengthen public debate about freedom as fundamental to human happiness and prosperity. Our festival aims to raise awareness about individual and political freedom by showing films and documentaries that inspire our youth and leadership. In Venezuela, we need all the hope we can get.*

The festival, which garnered significant publicity and ended up oversubscribed, consisted of three films: *Freedom’s Fury* (directed by the brother/sister team of Colin Keith Gray and Megan Rainey Aarons), which explored the Hungarian Revolution of 1956; *The Singing Revolution* (directed by husband and wife James and Maureen Tusty), a film about Estonia’s peaceful struggle against Soviet occupation; and *A Force More Powerful* (directed by Steve York), which examined the impact of non-violent struggles in world history.



*FREEDOM’S FURY, A DOCUMENTARY FILM*

The dubbing of the films into Spanish was made possible by the collaborative effort of the Moving Picture Institute (MPI) and HRF. The screening of *A Force More Powerful*, produced by Peter Ackerman and Jack DuVall, was made possible through the generosity of the Centre for Nonviolent Action.



## FREE RCTV

2008 marked the one-year anniversary of the Chávez government's most overt act of intolerance: the shutdown of the television station RCTV. This action constituted a grave violation of the right to freedom of expression and proscription of censorship, both of which are documented not only in the Venezuelan Constitution (articles 23, 57, and 58), but also in the main international human rights instruments Venezuela has signed – primarily the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (article 19), the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (article 19), the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man (article 4), and the American Convention on Human Rights. HRF maintains a website about the television station ([www.FreeRCTV.com](http://www.FreeRCTV.com)) aimed at informing individuals around the world about the shutdown of RCTV.



ENGLISH • ESPAÑOL

- THE BLOG
- ABOUT RCTV
- THE SHUTDOWN
- IMAGES
- IN THE NEWS
- TAKE ACTION!



The Human Rights Foundation is a nonpartisan organization devoted to defending human rights in the Americas. [Find out more!](#)

On May 28th, the Venezuelan government will shutdown that nation's most popular TV station, forever silencing this independent broadcaster. **Raise your voice against censorship!**



*This independent short film was made by a group of journalists concerned about freedom of expression in Venezuela. It includes footage never before seen outside of Venezuela and contains video clips that date back to the year 2001.*

HRF commemorates freedom of expression by releasing a **song** recorded by the Afro-Celtic-Yiddish-ska band The Fenwicks, in honor of RCTV and journalists everywhere who resist censorship.



**SAY NO TO CENSORSHIP!**

FIRST

LAST

EMAIL

COUNTRY

**JOIN THE CAMPAIGN!**

**WANT TO DO MORE?**

- SIGN THE PETITION
- TELL A FRIEND
- ADD US TO YOUR SITE

**TAKE ACTION!**

## ■ ■ TELL CHÁVEZ

To further raise global awareness of the existence and suffering of political prisoners in Venezuela, HRF launched the Tell Chávez campaign ([www.TellChavez.com](http://www.TellChavez.com)) in the summer of 2008. The Tell Chávez website offers information on cases of those imprisoned by the Venezuelan government on trumped-up charges with due process violations.

The website presents a short video that invites the public to send emails addressed to President Chávez and representatives of the Venezuelan government demanding the immediate release of political prisoners, respect for human rights treaties, and an end to political persecution.

Español • English

# Tell Chávez:

Demand freedom for Venezuela's political prisoners. Now.

[Home](#)

[The Letter](#)

[Learn More](#)

  
The Human Rights Foundation is a nonpartisan organization devoted to defending human rights in the Americas. [Find out more....](#)



Since Hugo Chávez became president of Venezuela in 1998, his government has eroded political and civil rights. This, made worse by a lack of judicial independence, has led to the political persecution of hundreds of Venezuelans, some of whom are incarcerated without access to medical care or running water.

This site features the stories of Venezuelan citizens who have been harassed, intimidated, and deprived of their freedom merely for disagreeing with the government. They are not alone. There are many more like them.

But you can make a difference—and you can do it with a single click. [Tell Chávez](#) to immediately and unconditionally release all political prisoners in Venezuela.

[Join us.](#)

  
[Tell a friend.](#)

  
[Add us to your site.](#)

**Tell Chávez**



Click Here to [Tell Chávez Now.](#)

## OSLO FREEDOM FORUM

The Oslo Freedom Forum took place in Oslo, Norway, from May 18-20, 2009. HRF's first global initiative explored and celebrated the literary works and testimonies of survivors of political oppression and documented the torments they endured. These testimonies have inspired millions to defend their dignity and freedom and have been vital in helping the world recognize and censure human rights violators. By staging a conference featuring the most prominent authors of this genre, including Elie Wiesel, Vladimir Bukovsky, Harry Wu, Palden Gyatso, Leyla Zana, Armando Valladares, Elena Bonner, and Václav Havel, HRF popularized their narratives and promoted their belief that human rights cannot be negotiated or compromised.



CHADIAN HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCATE JACQUELINE MOUDEINA ADDRESSES OSLO FREEDOM FORUM

The Oslo Freedom Forum constituted a veritable Davos of human rights activists. Joining former prisoners of conscience were human rights defenders, bestselling authors, former and current heads of state, and pioneers from the worlds of business, culture, and politics, as well as representatives from *The Wall Street Journal*, the *Associated Press*, *The Economist*, *The New Republic*, and *Foreign Policy*. Leaders were present from the United Nations, Amnesty International, the Rafto Foundation, the Human Rights Foundation, the Laogai Research Foundation, and the International Society for Human Rights. Individuals from 33 countries attended the forum, including citizens of Argentina, Belarus, Bolivia, Chad, Chechnya, China, Croatia, Cuba, the Czech Republic, Ecuador, France, Germany, Guatemala, Iran, Iraq, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Lithuania, Mauritania, Nicaragua, North Korea, Norway, Poland, Romania, Russia, Sweden, Tibet, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, and Vietnam.

Inspired by Elie Wiesel, who urged his fellow survivors to “bear witness, speak, write, leave your notes, and give your thoughts,” the conference focused the human rights movement on the power of memoirs and literature as the most effective way to expose and prevent human rights violations. As Jung Chang, author of *Wild Swans*, observed:

*For much of the century, the world was full of unashamed Holocaust deniers, apologists for Communism, and Mao worshippers. Then, personal experiences like those of our speakers became widely read and entered the consciousness of the general public. These memoirs described their authors' lives under tyranny. The general public, who had not lived under those tyrannical systems and could not imagine what life was like, found themselves moved and able to identify with the writers, and through them, with the other victims and people of those regimes. No amount of impersonal history lessons or dry political analyses can produce that impact – the impact of touching people's hearts, opening their eyes, and stirring their minds.*

Among those who spoke on the second day were: Greg Mortenson (author of the #1 *New York Times* best-seller *Three Cups of Tea*); Jack Healey (former head of Amnesty International USA); Emil Constantinescu (first post-Soviet president of Romania); Akhmed Zakaev (the Chechen prime minister in exile); L. Craig Johnstone (the UN deputy high commissioner for refugees); and Leopoldo López (Venezuelan opposition leader and social activist).

The Oslo Freedom Forum received significant media coverage both in Norway (where millions learned about the event on television, radio, and in the largest newspapers), and internationally, as *The Wall Street Journal* published a special report on the conference entitled "Human Rights Beyond Ideology." Inspired by the World Economic Forum and the TED conference, the event featured not only speakers' remarks, but ample opportunities for attendees to exchange opinions and build relations. Participants described the forum as: "incredible," "spellbinding," "amazing," "personally rewarding," "breathtaking," "truly inspiring," "a wonderful experience," "superbly run," "beyond expectations," and "a unique platform to meet and learn from others ...that very much needs to become an institution." HRF captured the conference on high-definition video in order to memorialize the event and promote its core messages beyond Oslo. All remarks are available as videos and transcripts at <http://2009.oslofreedomforum.com/cgi-local/home.cgi>. HRF is committed to building upon its success of 2009 in Oslo in the spring of 2010.



GREG MORTENSON, CO-AUTHOR OF THREE CUPS OF TEA



CHECHEN PRIME MINISTER AKHMED ZAKAYEV

## ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

In addition to country-specific programs, HRF's work has expanded to include involvement with regional and international institutions. For the past year, HRF has played the role of watchdog on a regional level for Latin America through its project, "The Inter-American Democratic Charter and Mr. Insulza."

The secretary general of the OAS, José Miguel Insulza, has failed repeatedly to respond appropriately to human rights violations occurring in OAS member states. Specifically, Insulza has refused to fulfill the Inter-American Democratic Charter, which commands him to censure OAS governments that undermine democratic processes and violate human rights. The OAS expelled Cuba from its members' circle in the 1960s for its failure to respect human rights, yet Insulza has campaigned for lifting Cuba's suspension while pursuing a policy of inaction toward Bolivia, Ecuador, Nicaragua, and Venezuela.

HRF began a recurring-letter campaign to Insulza that widely publicized his acquiescence to authoritarian regimes and lack of accountability. Thus far, HRF has sent five letters outlining human rights violations in OAS member states, including infringements on fundamental rights ranging from freedom of the press and expression to freedom from torture and tyranny. Specific violations include: the shutting down of an independent television station in Venezuela; the recent crackdown on independent media in Ecuador; the government-incited political violence that has claimed 40 lives in Bolivia; the obliteration of judicial independence in Venezuela and Bolivia; the dissolution of the Congress in Ecuador; media harassment in Nicaragua instigated by the government; and political persecution in all three countries.

HRF's extensive campaign for OAS accountability is garnering notice: our letters were covered by *El Mundo*, the most widely read Spanish language paper, and have also gained the attention of various OAS delegations who have contacted us directly for copies of the letters. We are the only organization that has monitored the decline of the OAS as a guarantor of the rule of law and democracy.

On May 22, 2009, the OAS's outstanding invitation for HRF to observe the OAS general assembly as a civil society organization at its June 1<sup>st</sup> meeting was revoked, the result of a request from the Bolivian government with strong support from the Venezuelan and Nicaraguan delegations.

It is clear that HRF's mission to hold the OAS accountable will not be easy, but HRF pledges to continue the program until the OAS ends its willful blindness and enforces its own rules. Our most effective weapon is to continue to educate interested parties, the media, other human rights defenders, and the various delegations to the OAS. Indeed, several national delegations have expressed gratitude over the detail and legal grounding of every HRF missive to the OAS.

## UNITED NATIONS

In the summer of 2007, HRF applied for official consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (EcoSoc). Such accreditation would bring us a formal and internationally credible platform from which to expose and denounce attacks on human rights. In July of 2008, after a flurry of diplomatic meetings and back-channel communications, EcoSoc rejected HRF's application in a 29-19-3 vote.

Our application was derailed by a group of nations led by the Cuban government. Threatened by HRF's mission to promote liberty, and fully aware of our effective programs and widespread publications inside Cuba, the Castro regime lobbied aggressively against us. HRF was told by one country's mission to the UN that they had "never seen" such an effort from the Cuban delegation, which included several calls and visits to most of the other 53 members of EcoSoc. Equipped with crudely and demonstrably forged documents, the Cuban delegation cast HRF as a "subversive" anti-government organization.



Delegations from Algeria, Belarus, Bolivia, China, Iraq, Pakistan, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, and Sudan were joined by eighteen other nations in siding with the Cuban delegation to vote against HRF's motion to gain consultative status.

HRF was supported by Austria, Canada, the Czech Republic, France, Greece, Iceland, Japan, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Moldova, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Romania, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and the United States. HRF failed to obtain the necessary votes and its application for recognition was denied.

The sharp contrast between the countries that supported HRF (countries with, for the most part, a strong track record of safeguarding human rights) and the countries that opposed HRF (which were led by a veritable who's who of the world's worst human rights violators) indicates the difficult challenge of making a difference from within the UN system.

## MEDIA IMPACT

HRF's programs and advocacy attracted a wide range of international media coverage in both Spanish and English. Our work was featured in *Aftenposten*, *Dagens Næringsliv*, *El Tiempo*, *Fox News*, the *Jerusalem Post*, the *International Herald Tribune*, the *Los Angeles Times*, *Mega TV*, *The Miami Herald*, the *New York Post*, the *New York Times*, *The Penn Gazette*, *TV2*, *Verdens Gang*, and the *The Wall Street Journal*.

To maximize the effects of our efforts, and to get our stories out to as many individuals as possible, HRF relies heavily on internet-based advocacy. More than 2 million viewers have watched HRF's YouTube viral videos. HRF's YouTube page is currently the 57<sup>th</sup> most viewed non-profit of all time, a significant distinction considering the thousands of non-profits with substantially larger budgets. With this strategy, HRF's press releases are targeted not simply at traditional media outlets, but also at grassroots blogs, discussion boards, twitter feeds, and social networking sites.

This kind of advocacy has fueled explosive growth in the interest in and demand for HRF's work. Between January 2008 and December of 2009, there were 425 blog and online publication-based media mentions of HRF – out of a total of 500 mentions since HRF's inception. Not included are *thousands* of repeated stories in numerous Latin American newspapers. A full database of HRF media coverage is available upon request.

If HRF is to reach more of today's youth and stimulate new interest in promoting freedom, our challenge is to continue utilizing the most engaging and ubiquitous methods of human rights reporting.

**The New York Times**

THE HUFFINGTON POST

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

**Los Angeles Times**

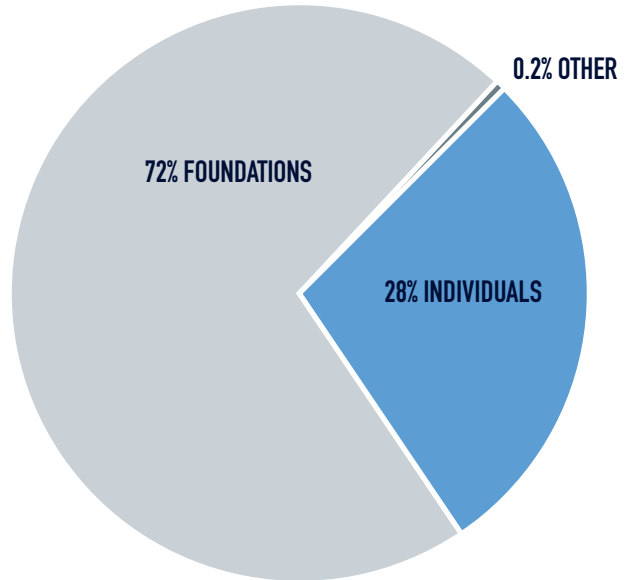
**The Miami Herald**

**Aftenposten**

## 2007 FINANCIALS

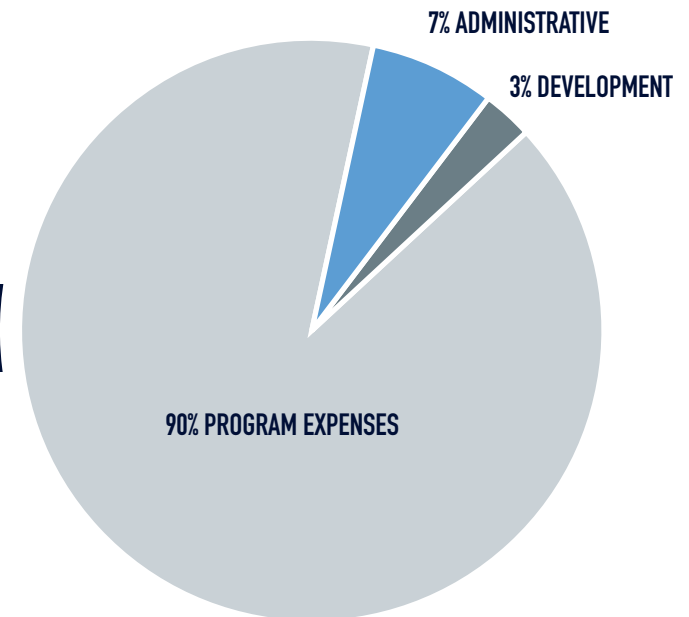
INDIVIDUALS	\$222,201
FOUNDATIONS	\$562,151
OTHER INCOME	\$1,965

**INCOME** **\$786,317**



ADMINISTRATIVE	\$53,343
DEVELOPMENT	\$22,862
PROGRAM	\$685,846

**EXPENSES** **\$762,051**

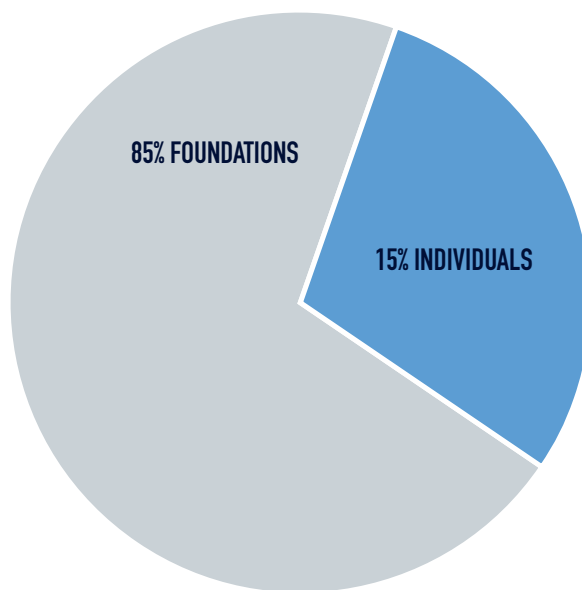




## 2008 FINANCIALS

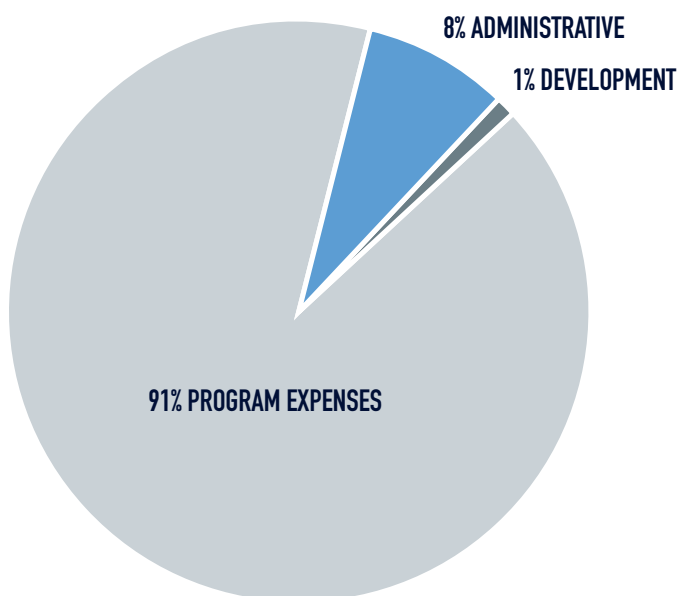
INDIVIDUALS	\$167,645
FOUNDATIONS	\$404,742

<b>INCOME</b>	<b>\$572,387</b>
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ADMINISTRATIVE	\$52,663
DEVELOPMENT	\$6,848
PROGRAM	\$585,643

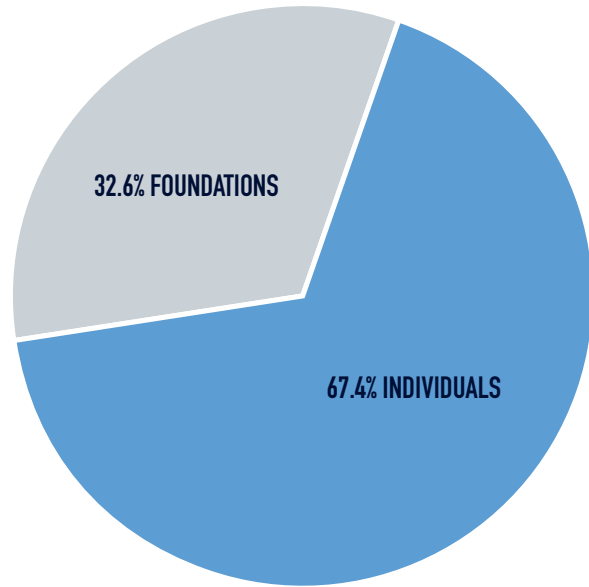
<b>EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$645,154</b>
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# 2009 FINANCIALS

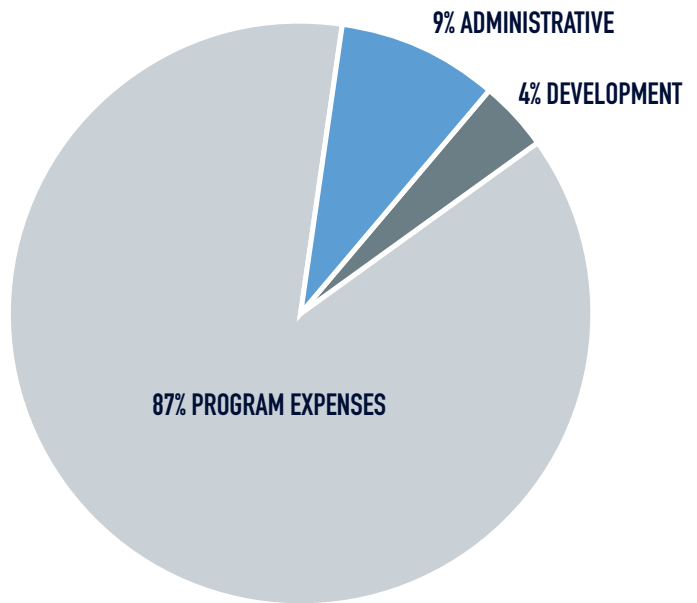
INDIVIDUALS \$510,576  
FOUNDATIONS \$246,702

**INCOME \$757,278**



ADMINISTRATIVE \$73,386  
DEVELOPMENT \$32,615  
PROGRAM \$709,392

**EXPENSES \$815,393**



## FUTURE ACTIVITIES

HRF plans to continue delivering valuable educational and technological materials to Cuba's civil society movement. This includes books, films, and such equipment as printers, paper, computers, calculators, and other basic electronic devices. As a result of the arrest of a U.S. government subcontractor in December of 2009 for distributing computer equipment and cell phones to Cuban nationals, many humanitarian organizations have ceased projects in Cuba. We are prepared for the risks involved in assisting peaceful human rights defenders inside the country.

In the Dominican Republic, HRF will carry out a follow-up visit to assess current conditions on the sugar plantations where it encountered human trafficking and modern-day slavery. In Bolivia and Ecuador, HRF will publish and distribute a human rights guide: *Tus Derechos Humanos*. This guide will use examples and language that will be tailored to each country. We will also work with a local organization to launch a liberty film festival in Ecuador.

Regarding the OAS, HRF will continue its letter project to petition the organization for accountability and adherence to its democratic principles. The project will be enhanced by a new website through which users can send their own letters to Secretary General José Miguel Insulza and his deputies. Our goal is to hold Insulza accountable in advance of his bid for re-election to the position of secretary general of the OAS.

In Venezuela, HRF will launch a visual exposé on the prison system under Hugo Chávez. Constructed by an award-winning graphic designer, our campaign will take photographs and footage that is too disturbing for public consumption and animate them in a way that leaves them viewable but still powerful. A website will be built around this project and two research reports will be published and disseminated in cooperation with an organization that specializes in prison work. HRF's Caracas Nine program will be completed, and the Tell Chávez project will continue to expose the existence of political prisoners in Venezuela.

In Norway, HRF will produce the Oslo Freedom Forum 2010. To take place in April, the conference will feature speakers such as Nobel Laureate and former President of Poland Lech Walesa, Uighur leader Rebiya Kadeer, Russian democracy advocate and chess grandmaster Garry Kasparov, Malaysian opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim, Sudanese women's rights reformer Lubna al-Hussein, Wikipedia founder Jimmy Wales, Cuban blogger Yoani Sánchez, Peruvian economist Hernando de Soto, Afghani diplomat and rights advocate Sima Samar, WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange, and former president of the U.N. Security Council Diego Arria. Titled: "From Tragedy to Triumph: Heroism that changed history and visions for transforming tomorrow," this event will bring together remarkable men and women to share experiences and create new strategies for addressing human rights issues.

## INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL AND BOARD OF ADVISORS

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### ■ INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL

Kenneth Anderson, Washington College of Law, Stanford University

Vladimir Bukovsky, Committee 2008

Palden Gyatso, Tibetan Administration in Exile

Garry Kasparov, The Other Russia

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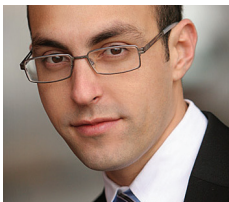
## STAFF PROFILES



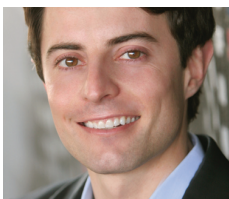
■ ■ **GLENDALDANA, PROGRAM DIRECTOR** Glenda is a 2007 *Phi Beta Kappa* and *magna cum laude* graduate of Harvard University, where she majored in social studies and wrote her senior thesis on judicial modernization in Guatemala. In college, she did minority recruitment for the Admissions Office and worked for a Chilean environmental protection nonprofit.



■ ■ **ALEXANDER GLADSTEIN, DIRECTOR OF INSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS** Alex is a *magna cum laude* graduate of Tufts University, where he majored in International Relations and Middle Eastern Studies. In 2007, he served as research assistant to a shadow foreign secretary in the British Parliament before joining HRF as a program intern. He later joined HRF full time, and in 2009 became Chief Operating Officer of the Oslo Freedom Forum.



■ ■ **JAVIER EL-HAGE, GENERAL COUNSEL** Javier holds Masters degrees in International Law from Columbia University School of Law, and the Universidad Complutense de Madrid. He was a professor of Constitutional Law for two years at the Universidad Privada de Santa Cruz-Bolivia, during which time he argued a landmark case before the Bolivian Constitutional Court and was invited by the Bolivian Constituent Assembly to provide expert testimony on international human rights law and international investment law. He also held visiting faculty positions at the Universidad Andina Simon Bolivar and Universidad de Aquino. Along with his numerous publications on constitutional and international law and on democracy and human rights, in 2006, Javier authored the book “International Law Limitations for the Constitutional Assembly: Democracy, Human Rights, Foreign Investment and Drug Control.” In 2007, in recognition of his remarkable performance in academia, he was awarded the Fulbright Scholarship for Faculty Development, by which, in 2009, he obtained his law masters degree at Columbia University. He authored HRF’s recently-published legal report, “The Facts and the Law behind the Democratic Crisis of Honduras 2009-2010.” Javier joined HRF full time in 2009.



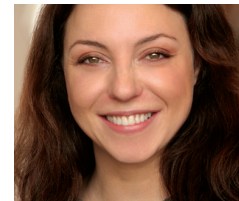
■ ■ **THOR HALVORSSSEN, PRESIDENT** Thor began advocating for human rights in 1989 in London by organizing opposition to South African apartheid. After completing his secondary education in the United Kingdom, he attended the University of Pennsylvania; there he became a judicial advisor for students charged inside the college judicial system. Thor’s advocacy of individual rights earned him an Ivy Day Award from the university president for “protecting freedom of speech on campus.” Having witnessed countless violations of freedom of speech and due process on United States college campuses, Thor was instrumental in creating and developing the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education, serving as its first executive director and then CEO

from its founding in 1999 until 2004. Under his decisive leadership, FIRE became the nation's pre-eminent student rights organization. He founded the Moving Picture Institute and the Human Rights Foundation in the spring of 2005, and has produced various documentary films about the struggle for human freedom.

■ ■ **SARAH E. PARKER, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT** Sarah is a recent graduate of Duke University, where she directed several free speech groups on campus, including Duke Students for Academic Freedom. She also founded the Duke Free Market Studies Initiative in 2007.



■ ■ **SARAH WASSERMAN, CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER** Sarah graduated from Brown University with a concentration in international relations, focusing her studies on Latin America. She has been working with the Human Rights Foundation since its inception in 2005. Prior to joining HRF, she worked in public relations with GCI Group, a large Manhattan firm, and also worked in the development office at the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education (FIRE). In college, she was actively involved with multiple humanitarian organizations, including Amnesty International and Habitat for Humanity.



■ ■ **ROSS WITTENBERG, PROGRAM AND DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATE** Ross is a second-year graduate student at the John C. Whitehead School of Diplomacy and International Relations at Seton Hall University, where he is pursuing an M.A. in International Relations with a focus on human rights and foreign policy analysis. He completed his undergraduate work at DePauw University and received his B.A. in conflict studies with a concentration on intra-state conflict and post-conflict reconstruction.



■ ■ **MANUELA ZULOAGA, LEGAL COUNSEL** Manuela is a *cum laude* graduate of Universidad Católica Andrés Bello in Venezuela and New York University School of Law. As an undergraduate, Manuela did extensive research and analysis on the Venezuelan government's policy toward the rights of refugees and participated in the Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition, where she drafted pleadings on the general theory of human rights, freedom of expression, and due process. Manuela has worked as a law clerk in an international firm and as a pro bono attorney for several non-profit organizations.



## GET INVOLVED

### ■ HRF'S FINANCES: **INVESTING IN FREEDOM**

HRF relies solely on the generosity of individuals, foundations, and corporations that share its commitment to individual rights. Because HRF is a tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, donations are tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law. **HRF does not receive any financing from the U.S. government.**

### ■ INTERNSHIP PROGRAM: **TRAINING TOMORROW'S HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS**

HRF's internship program provides excellent opportunities for students who want to get involved with civil liberties and human rights work in a vibrant, young organization. Individuals who wish to apply should contact our New York office.

### ■ CONTACT HRF

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Fax: (212) 643.4278  
info@humanrightsfoundation.org

**[www.HumanRightsFoundation.org](http://www.HumanRightsFoundation.org)**

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