Annual Report
2013
## Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Foreword</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global Challenges to Freedom of Expression and Information in 2013</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Key ARTICLE 19 Global Actions in 2013</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programme Highlights</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Protecting Freedom of Expression: People and Principles</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Advancing Right to Information and Transparency</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Freedom of Expression in a Digital World</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Looking Back, Looking Forward</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Who We Are</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Mission and Vision</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- What we do</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Trustees</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Financial Summary 2013</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Our Supporters</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Acronyms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Full Form</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACHPR</td>
<td>African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BRIN</td>
<td>Kosovo Balkan Media Investigative Network</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CoE</td>
<td>Council of Europe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSOs</td>
<td>Civil Society Organisations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EFF</td>
<td>Electronic Frontier Foundation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FoE</td>
<td>Freedom of Expression</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FoI</td>
<td>Freedom of Information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HRDs</td>
<td>Human Rights Defenders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HRC</td>
<td>Human Rights Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICTs</td>
<td>Information and Communications Technologies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IGOs</td>
<td>Intergovernmental Organisations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IFEX</td>
<td>International Freedom of Expression Exchange</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KDA</td>
<td>Khulna Development Agency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LGBTI</td>
<td>Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transexual and Intersex</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MENA</td>
<td>Middle East and North Africa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MDGs</td>
<td>Millennium Development Goals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NGOs</td>
<td>Non-governmental Organisations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSA</td>
<td>National Security Agency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OIC</td>
<td>Organisation of the Islamic Conference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OSCE</td>
<td>Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PATTIRO</td>
<td>Pusat Telaah dan Informasi Regional</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RTI</td>
<td>Right to Information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SDGs</td>
<td>Sustainable Development Goals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEIAM</td>
<td>Social and Environment Movement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UK</td>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UN</td>
<td>United Nations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UPR</td>
<td>Universal Periodic Review</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>US</td>
<td>United States</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Foreword

In 2013 ARTICLE 19 continued to play its unique role in the defence and promotion of free expression and information worldwide. As a leading human rights actor working on these core rights, ARTICLE 19 has the ability to connect global advocacy with local impact, ensuring that policies and principles which are developed based on international standards can be utilised in practice by local communities, whether they be displaced persons in Kenya, environmental activists in Bangladesh, or indigenous communities in Brazil.

International law is a powerful tool for the promotion and protection of human rights and the attainment of sustainable development. ARTICLE 19 specialises in holding national governments, businesses and vested-interest groups to account through developing and replicating best practice standards and programmatic models. By engaging at global level, such as the UN Human Rights Council, or regional bodies, such as the AU, OAS or OSCE, principles and norms are set that empower individual freedom of expression and information at the national and local levels. These in turn underpin the realisation of numerous other rights and are essential to the pursuit of a rights-based approach to achieve sustainable development in a range of areas from health, to water or education. This breadth and depth of specialised knowledge and reach is what makes ARTICLE 19’s contribution unique and especially impactful.

This was the vision set for ARTICLE 19 by my predecessor, Agnes Callamard. Under her tenure the organisation took on an expansive interpretation of freedom of expression, understanding how the right interlinked on other rights. ARTICLE 19 has also strengthened its international presence, which in addition to our headquarters in London, now includes regional offices in Bangladesh, Brazil, Kenya, Mexico and Senegal, and national offices in Myanmar, Tunisia and the United States.

As a long-time admirer of ARTICLE 19’s work, I am pleased to embrace this vision as I take over from Agnes as Executive Director. ARTICLE 19 is well placed to tackle the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead in the global free expression and information landscape. In the coming year we will be evolving the organisation’s strategy, focus areas and impact-delivery, ranging from greater involvement on digital rights, to the protection of collective expression and information for sustainable development. We will be further solidifying our global voice and cross-organisational integration, as well as deepening strategic partnerships with external actors in various fields. The future years will be one of continued internal and external consolidation and growth based around the organisation’s three primary pillars of work: freedom of expression, the right to information and protection of journalists and human rights defenders.

ARTICLE 19 boasts a professional and innovative team worldwide and I look forward to working with the staff in the coming years to defend and further freedom of expression and information globally.

Thomas Hughes
Executive Director
Global Challenges to Freedom of Expression and Information in 2013

Edward Snowden’s revelations on the extensive and intrusive nature of government surveillance — against allies and foes, citizens and foreigners alike — changed the nature of the battle for freedom of expression and information. The scale of the surveillance state, once revealed, raised immediate fears that freedom of expression (FoE) and information were being irrevocably eroded in the digital domain just at the moment when digital tools seemed to provide the greatest opportunities for expansion of FoE. Debates emerged on freedom of the media, whistleblower protection, privacy rights, the future of the internet, and the role of the internet giants in private censorship, to name just a few issues. While the debates were welcome, little concrete progress was made on these fronts. Advocates for FoE needed to quickly reorient themselves and their organisational priorities to carry forward their agenda in a post-Snowden world.

Last year also saw the continued curtailment of basic freedom and liberties online under the guise of “protective” activities. There was an increase in the application of restrictive laws on online speech and prosecution of individuals for controversial speech, including traditional democracies setting bad examples, as well as the curtailment of freedom of expression through intellectual property enforcement and cyber security. The National Security Agency (NSA) surveillance scandal also prompted more extensive discussion on the reform of Internet governance (i.e. the way in which the Internet is run from a technical perspective as well as broader policy discussions).

Legislative and technical measures aimed at controlling the Internet, limiting the rights of users and increasing the surveillance of electronic communication are on the rise. Many technical decisions have an enormous impact on freedom of expression and information, but because they are not decisions taken by traditional standard-setting bodies, policy makers and legislators, they have been distant from our efforts to promote the development and expansion of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) within a human rights framework.

At the same time, anaemic economic growth and “austerity measures” in many parts of the world have hurt democratic culture, freedom of media and human rights. Tough economic times have hastened media consolidation and concentration, reducing media diversity and pluralism. Investigative journalism in the public interest continues to suffer in traditional media venues. Frustrated by the failures of the media to protect public interests, the general public continues to lose trust in them in many places. The low level of public trust in the media is particularly worrisome in countries in Eastern Europe, East Africa and Middle East and North Africa (MENA) where the media are overtly used by their owners, often local oligarchs, for political and economic gains.

Economic and political concerns fed into another trend in 2013: the continued rise of protest, online and off, as a means of exercising freedom of speech and assembly. Whether it was protests related to the exorbitant World Cup financial outlays in Brazil, poor working conditions in Bangladeshi garment factories, or the destruction of public space in Turkey, people took to the literal and figurative streets in increasing numbers. With this rise there has been an increase in the crackdown on protest, which has resulted in increasing attacks on freedom of expression and association, and an increase in impunity for those who violate the human rights of protestors and media covering the protests.

An additional factor curtailing freedom of expression is the chaotic approach to incitement to hatred or “hate speech”. On the positive side, the Rabat Plan of Action (on the prohibition of advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence), developed within the initiative of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, has been welcomed and positively referenced in a number of places. However, translating the Rabat Plan of Action into concrete steps on the ground will be a long term project as states have yet to show clear political will to implement it. There is also a growing pressure on internet intermediaries, from governments and user-led campaigns to regulate online “hate speech”, with the implications for freedom of expression often overlooked or dismissed. Finally, there have been numerous individual incidents of violence and reprisals against minority groups in several countries around the world where hate speech was a factor.

Fortunately, there has been an increase in government statements, committing to protection of “civic space”, strengthening mechanisms for protection of freedom of association and assembly in the United Nations, and recognition of the importance of public participation in political processes and civic engagement at all levels.

The report of the High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda - A New Global Partnership: Eradicate Poverty and Transform Economies through Sustainable Development – includes calls for the new Post-2015 sustainable development goals to include “peace building and effective, open and accountable institutions for all”. This is a strong endorsement of ARTICLE 19’s work as we have been in the vanguard advocating for a position linking transparency and development. At the national level, Morocco, Tunisia and Kenya are considering the adoption of dedicated access to information laws.

Protection of whistleblowers gained increased attention at international and regional levels, especially in response to the retaliation against Edward Snowden. These included statements by various Special Rapporteurs and discussions in the Human Rights Council (HRC) and Council of Europe (CoE). This increased interest in the protection of whistleblowers can be used positively to push for improved standards internationally, regionally and nationally.

ARTICLE 19 brought together 70 free speech, human rights, internet, and media freedom organisations from around the world to voice their concerns about the erosion of fundamental freedoms in the UK. In an open letter to David Cameron, the international coalition stated its deep concern about the way in which the UK government is using national security arguments to restrict individual and media organisations who have helped to generate an important public interest debate.

Equality initiatives based on the right to freedom of expression have increased in 2013. While homophobia became more entrenched in countries like Uganda and Russia, in the United States the Supreme Court struck down key sections of the anti-gay marriage “Defense of Marriage Act”, invigorating the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transexual and Intersex (LGBTI) movement in the US and beyond. In particular, we have seen more initiatives from the LGBTI groups based on FoE standards and using FoE arguments in campaigns for same sex marriage, against “homosexual propaganda” laws and for general protection of LGBTI.
Facing this shifting landscape, ARTICLE 19 remained true to our core strategy while accelerating our engagement in key areas to seize opportunities, particularly in digital protection. Our global reach and influence expanded in 2013 in line with our mission to be in the vanguard defending freedom of expression.

- **Protection of journalists and human rights defenders:** We continued to invest into the geographic expansion of our protection methodology for journalists and human rights defenders, which involves a holistic training and monitoring program that takes into account physical, psychological and legal protection. Responding to the rise of protests around the world, ARTICLE 19 developed a methodology for monitoring FoE violations during protests and launched an international campaign with International Freedom of Expression Exchange (IFEX) to train activists on how to protect their rights.

- **Helping young democracies define FoE:** The heart of ARTICLE 19’s strategy is to be present on the front lines of freedom of expression. Our investment in new offices in Myanmar and Tunisia speak to our commitment to be where we feel we can make a difference. ARTICLE 19 remained a central actor in the development of the new Tunisian constitution, providing multiple objective legal analyses on the provisions that would impact or protect freedom of expression, and advocating to this with the government. Thus far, Tunisia remains the best hope in the MENA region for translating the spirit of the Arab Spring into tangible legislative success.

- **Protecting the Principles of FoE:** ARTICLE 19’s legal and policy work continued to push the boundaries of freedom of expression. We launched three influential policy papers on core aspects of protecting freedom of speech and expression online: *The Right to Blog*, *The Right to Share: Principles of Freedom of Expression and Copyright in the Digital Age*, and *Internet Intermediaries: Dilemma of Liability*. These papers have been cited by corporations and other civil society actors for their clarity and depth of thinking about tricky issues. Additionally, our policy on “hate speech” and incitement to violence (adopted verbatim into the UN Rabat Plan of Action) is widely recognised by international organisations and civil society as the major policy source on balancing various rights. For example, Heiner Bielefeldt, the United Nations (UN) Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief used it in his report on religious intolerance.

- **Expanding the Right to Information internationally and regionally:** 2013 presented a number of opportunities for us to advocate for the expansion of right to information principles at the international and regional levels. ARTICLE 19 engaged with the post-2015 development agenda in the UN, intended to be the successor to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), to advocate for the centrality of access to information and freedom of expression to development. Our recommendations on access to information and the need to have a strong enabling environment for civil society were reflected in the High Level Panel Report, and importantly, in the structure of the debate in the United Nations Open Working Group on the Sustainable Development Goals. At the regional level, after sustained advocacy and engagement by ARTICLE 19, the African Commission on Human and People’s Rights adopted a Model Law on Access to Information.

- **Fighting for LGBTI rights and religious tolerance in the UN:** One of ARTICLE 19’s unique strengths is our ability to bring first rate legal and policy analyses to international bodies like the UN, including the HRC. We intensified our advocacy on freedom of expression of LGBTI people as we pushed back against the
“traditional values” agenda. Our influential report, “Traditional values? Attempts to censor sexuality” dealing with various prohibitions of “homosexual propaganda” laws around the world was launched at a side event of the HRC and has been included in the delegate packs for a Council of Europe event on homophobia. We also contributed significantly to the debate around resolution 16/18 and freedom of expression and religious tolerance. A number of country missions approached us directly for our views on this matter, and we successfully made the case for maintaining consensus on resolution 16/18 and worked with Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) states to agree language.

- **Defending FoE in traditional media:** ARTICLE 19 continued our work of defending international FoE principles for broadcast and other traditional media. For example, we successfully intervened in the drafting of new Broadcasting Guidelines and Advertisement Guidelines in Bangladesh. Our main concerns included criticism of both the content of the guidelines and the process in which they were put together as there had been no civil society participation. Based on our comments and extensive advocacy by our Bangladesh office, the government agreed to open it to public consultation with the broadcasting industry.

ARTICLE 19’s work in 2013 reflected our growing regional presence around the world, and the breadth of the challenges facing freedom of expression and information. Our annual report seeks to give a sense of the scope of our work and the issues on which we substantively engage.

**Listening to our beneficiaries: Gender Sensitive Protection Training**

ARTICLE 19’s commitment to continual learning means that we are always open to hearing how we can improve. This proved to be the case with women in our journalist safety and protection trainings. Whilst scoring the sessions highly overall, women participants in Mexico highlighted two issues.

**Participation:** In some trainings, the ratio of women to men was unbalanced, with only one third of the participants being women.

**Reflecting women’s risks:** Women participants asked for specialised gender sensitive training. Women journalists often face different risks to their male counterparts as their working environment, their behaviour, the threats they receive and their reactions would not be the same.

We heard the need to respond to the unique issues women face in other regions as well. Our Bangladesh and West Africa offices have developed a specific focus on monitoring attacks and discrimination against women and women journalists. Our Bangladesh office called attention to the religiously-motivated attacks against women journalists covering protests in the country, whilst our West Africa office published an influential report on the unbalanced portrayal of women in various forms of media.

These experiences from across the globe informed our decision to develop specific gender-sensitive protection training modules and courses in 2014, and to increase our commitment to produce gender-sensitive programs across all our work.
For over 25 years, ARTICLE 19 has been a global leader in protecting defenders of freedom of expression and information. Our holistic approach to protection does not solely provide emergency support, but seeks to create an enabling environment that empowers human rights defenders (HRDs) and media workers. This work has influenced the way state and multilateral actors address impunity and protection worldwide. It forms the heart of our mission.

States have an obligation to ensure that journalists, human rights defenders and activists can work safely without the fear of physical violence, intimidation, harassment, arbitrary arrests and detention, indiscriminate abuse of criminal and civil proceedings or threats of such proceedings. In a global environment characterised by a shrinking civic space, brought about by a range of regressive laws and policies, ARTICLE 19 provides legal, policy, and practical measures and assistance to protect the rights of these individuals and organisations to express themselves, and impart information across borders.

Expanding ARTICLE 19’s protection work

In the face of increasing violence and impunity against journalists and human rights defenders, we continued to expand our holistic protection work through our regional offices. We researched and produced reports on violations against journalists and HRDs in Mexico, Brazil, Russia and Eastern Africa in 2013, highlighting the threats they face. We also monitored violations and impunity in West Africa and Myanmar and expanded our provision of protection trainings into Brazil, East and West Africa, Russia and Bangladesh, which focussed on women media workers.

We also extended our work into the protection of peaceful protest. Our Mexico office developed a methodology to monitor human rights violations in real-time. We developed a training protocol for journalists and HRDs covering protests in Mexico City in order to enhance their personal safety, and were invited by the Mayor to train security personnel on how to safely engage with the media during protests. Our Brazil office built on this work to document violations during the series of protests that swept the country in 2013. Given the increasing importance of protest as a force for expression, ARTICLE 19 will expand this work considerably in 2014.

Protecting Protesters

In the face of increasingly repressive tactics by governments, ARTICLE 19 launched a campaign to give visibility to abuses against demonstrators around the world as part of the Impunity Day Campaign organised by IFEX. We launched a short online tutorial on self-protection during
demonstrations in Spanish, French, English, Russian and Arabic. The videos are based on the monitoring undertaken by ARTICLE 19’s regional offices and provide practical recommendations for journalists and demonstrators.

ARTICLE 19 led the way in producing the first-ever international analysis reviewing cases and identifying patterns of violations during demonstrations in different countries. Our Mexico office developed a system to monitor demonstrations, confirm information and give advice in real-time based on a network of professional and citizen journalists, activists and human rights defenders using social networks, SMS and mobile phones called “Red Rompe el Miedo” (“Break the Fear Network”). The Mexico team monitored more than 20 demonstrations, documented more than 100 cases of abuses to provide real-time emergency protection and legal representation. Next year, we aim to replicate the monitoring system for demonstrations in Brazil and Tunisia.

Pressuring Gambia on human rights through the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights: ARTICLE 19 mobilised 38 human rights NGOs and media freedom organisations to threaten a boycott against holding sessions of the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights (ACHPR) in the Gambia where human rights violations are recurrent and political repression is constant. The ACHPR pledged to draw the attention of the members of the Commission to the human rights violations carried out under the Gambian President, Yahya Jammeh. As a result, the Gambian Government announced that it would set up a human rights commission and meet with the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression.

ARTICLE 19’s holistic perspective on protection

ARTICLE 19’s methodology for “holistic protection” documents information gathered in the field in order to identify threats and risks, and then tailors the protection measures needed in a particular country context. These measures can include legal support, self-protection protocols or post-traumatic stress therapy.

Our protection work expands on our hand-on experience in Mexico, where ARTICLE 19 had to address increasing violence against journalists, the lack of protection available to them and the subsequent impunity. In response, we developed a methodology to monitor and document the recurrent violence against the press and HRDs. Each of our regional offices and programmes now carry out protection work and have started to use and adapt the original methodology to their local context. For example, the Brazil team developed a focus on monitoring the situation of women journalists, while the Bangladesh and West Africa offices monitor gender-based censorship.

Continuing our pressure at a following session of the ACHPR, ARTICLE 19 West Africa coordinated the first-ever side event on the protection of civic space in the Gambia and broke the silence on human rights violations. Gambian human rights defenders and journalists were given the opportunity to speak out publicly despite the risk of reprisal from security officers, and connect with regional and international partners. The extensive media coverage initiated by ARTICLE 19 on issues of freedom of expression and human rights abuses has increased the visibility of the repression of journalists and human rights defenders, helping to reduce the climate of fear and silence.

Using the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) to protect journalists: ARTICLE 19 engages consistently with the UPR mechanism to highlight where states are failing to meet their international obligations and push for the acceptance of recommendations to address these failures. For example, the Europe and Central Asia Programme actively engaged in the UPR process for both Russia and Azerbaijan in 2013. In both countries, ARTICLE 19 continued to raise the profile of journalists under threat, as well as document impunity for attacks. Our report The Russian Federation: Journalists under Attack was recognised as a comprehensive analysis by the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE). Additionally, as part of our advocacy at the HRC, we gave a voice to Azerbaijani independent journalist, Khadija Ismaiilova. Through this platform, she highlighted the smear campaign against her and the risks reporters in Azerbaijan face every day. At the end of the UPR process, both countries accepted recommendations reflecting ARTICLE 19 concerns which included ensuring that journalists are free to work without fear of retribution and that there are investigations into cases of violence against them. While scepticism remains over the countries sincerity on these issues, it is nevertheless a step in holding them accountable internationally.

Despite this victory, it is becoming clear that neither international nor regional human rights instruments are able to react effectively to repressive government actions and violations of human rights in the region. Countries such as Russia and Azerbaijan are able to reduce the ability of civil society to engage in processes whilst remaining fully fledged members of inter-governmental organisations, including the CoE and the OSCE without any repercussions. With the authorities in these countries becoming more authoritarian, criticism especially through public actions, is being branded as ‘anti-patriotic’ and against the national interest which not only endangers our partner non-governmental organisations (NGOs) but also individual civil society members.

ARTICLE 19’s Legal work: From analysis into law

Through ARTICLE 19’s Hot Desk, the law programme responds to requests by governments, inter-governmental organisations (IGOs), civil society organisations and ARTICLE 19 regional offices to analyse laws and pending legislation for their impact on freedom of expression and the right to information.

The Kosovo Balkan Media Investigative Network (BRIN) asked our Hot Desk to provide comments on the Kosovo draft law on protection of journalistic sources. The Law programme sent BRIN comments designed to strengthen the law which they incorporated into their advocacy directed at Kosovo MPs. The local partner participated in a TV show presenting our position.

The law was passed with many of our suggestions reflected in the new language, meaning Kosovo for the first time has a law on protection of journalistic sources.
Brazil: Taking national protection work to an international audience

In 2013, ARTICLE 19 turned the launch of Brazil’s first annual report on Freedom of Expression Violations into our first global action, asking all of our regional offices to conduct local advocacy activities to support the release of the report. We aimed to demonstrate that impunity was not just a local concern, but one that attracted international attention and placed ARTICLE 19 Brazil in a wider international family. As the first activity of its kind for us, it was a learning experience that pointed to a need to invest in our international advocacy and communications skills. It also garnered media attention in multiple countries, and had a positive impact on the Brazil staff, who felt supported by colleagues from different countries.

This global action has led to ARTICLE 19 being recognised as a leading voice working on the protection of journalists and human rights defenders in Brazil. This has resulted in an invitation to join a new working group formed by the federal government to design measures and policies to improve the protection of journalists in Brazil. We have also been invited to participate in the coordination meeting of the National Programme for Protection of Human Rights Defenders.

Protecting journalists in Somalia, Rwanda, Ethiopia and Eritrea

ARTICLE 19 has established mechanisms and tools for protecting journalists in Somalia, Rwanda, Ethiopia and Eritrea to enable them to realise their right to freedom of expression. The security situation for journalists in these four countries is deteriorating. Journalists are exposed to physical threats, assault, intimidation and harassment, resulting in self-censorship, forced exile and, in the most extreme cases, the risk of being killed for doing their job.

The establishment of the emergency support for journalists is crucial for supporting freedom of expression since it encourages and supports journalists to continue their work in their respective countries. As part of our work in East Africa, ARTICLE 19 has created a journalist defence network and emergency fund to increase solidarity among journalists and human rights defenders. It has enabled 35 journalists from the region to exchange information and strategies about safety and security.

Dirty Tactics

In March 2012, one week after Khadija Ismayilova publically announced that she would not give in to a blackmail attempt, an illegally obtained and intimate video of the journalist was posted online. Ismayilova had carried out a number of investigations into the businesses of the presidential family, exposing cases of high-level corruption and disclosing information about the offshore businesses of members of the Aliyev family. To date, those who masterminded the smear campaign remain unidentified.

Ashkir: “Danger is everywhere”

Ashkir was shot in Kismayo, Somalia, whilst on assignment and left with a bullet lodged in his spinal cord. ARTICLE 19 Eastern Africa organised his transportation to Nairobi to receive medical treatment to remove the bullet. Throughout his time in Nairobi, Ashkir stressed his desire to return to Somalia and continue the work that he is so passionate about. “I can’t wait to go back home. I want to continue my work, I miss my friends but most of all I miss my colleagues and my work. I hope to go back to Somalia as fast as I can after my recovery.” When asked if he was afraid of being attacked again, he answered with confidence, “You cannot live in a permanent state of fear, because fear is the weapon of those who want to oppress you. I have to stand up and be counted, I have to fight the terror with the only weapon that I have; my profession. Danger is everywhere in Somalia but it is my country, it’s my home”.

He returned to Somalia after 9 months of physiotherapy to continue his work as a journalist. Ashkir is just one of the many journalists in Somalia who risk their lives every day in the course of their work. They also face many challenges including threat of attack from political groups and terrorist groups like Al-Shabaab. ARTICLE 19’s East African Freedom of Expression Violations report revealed that by October 2013, 10 journalists had been killed, 22 arrested and 7 others attacked in different circumstances in Somalia.
ARTICLE 19: Protection Work in Numbers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Trained</th>
<th>Assisted</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>245</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Africa</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Africa</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russia</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Gambia, Guinea Bissau and Senegal
- Ethiopia, Rwanda and Somalia

Gender breakdown of training participants:

- 265 journalists
- 138 human rights defenders
- Total: 403 journalists and HRDs trained
For over 20 years, ARTICLE 19 has been a global leader on right to information (RTI) standards and legislation, as well as on the use of RTI to promote transparency and empowerment. ARTICLE 19’s work is driven by a conviction that freedom of expression and information are at the heart of human rights and development. Human rights, the fight against poverty and equitable global development are dependent on the growth of an informed citizenry demanding that their rights be upheld and governments held to account.

During the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) debate, we showcased our country-level work linking access to information to development rights.

Increasingly, ARTICLE 19 has witnessed the inherent connection between our protection and right to information work. Once someone stands up to demand their right to information from government sources, they become potentially marked for retribution and discrimination. Despite this risk, the demand from citizens for access to crucial information continues to grow. ARTICLE 19 carried out projects in multiple countries rooted in our theory of change: through the realisation of freedom of expression and information, the most vulnerable communities are empowered to achieve development benefits, demand good governance and hold governments and other power-holders to account for their promises.

Our efforts supporting civil society in the promotion of the right to information at the national level included some innovative engagement in 2013. For example, in Bangladesh, ARTICLE 19 produced an instructional video on RTI which was run on national television. We continue to innovate in our work at the local level in Brazil through the use cultural events to engage people in the use of RTI tools. Together with an organisation for the protection of children with disabilities and a folkloric movement, our RTI workshops had dances and shows presented by children. We also produced a video linking the right to information and the Right to Water in Brazil, as well as a social audit of the implementation of the 2011 RTI Act in four key sectors - education, health, housing and the environment. This audit was presented in a dedicated website, and was combined with toolkits designed to increase RTI participation.

To highlight the link between our national work and international policy leadership, ARTICLE 19 released a report on International Right to Know day showing the connection between the right to information and development through case studies of our projects in Kenya, Brazil, Bangladesh, Senegal, and Indonesia.
The Right to Know: Environmental protection in Bangladesh

In Bangladesh, local communities and activists are using the right to information law to hold authorities accountable for creating a safe and sustainable environment.

The Challenge

Illegal encroachment by industry into rivers and water bodies is a significant environmental problem in Bangladesh, leading to air, water and soil pollution. Industrial and medical waste are often dumped into water bodies threatening the health of the surrounding communities. Unregulated and illegal rice and wood husk mills pose a particular problem. The citizens of the Khulna district who lived along the river Rupsha were particularly concerned that the growing instance of health problems in their community were tied to the proliferation of these mills.

Compounding this problem are endemic issues of corruption and a lack of transparency. On the global corruption ranking by Transparency International, Bangladesh is number 144 of 176 countries. However, Bangladesh does have a Right to Information Act that provides a mechanism for people to demand information and hold authorities to account.

Grassroots action to protect the environment

ARTICLE 19 has been working with people in Bangladesh to help them fight for better environmental protection. By training local communities to use the right to information law, communities, civil society and campaigners now ask questions about what the authorities are doing to create a safe and sustainable environment. As the case of Masum Billah demonstrates, asserting their rights to information has become a key tool in communities’ ability to demand enforcement of environmental protection laws.

“A new tool for holding local government and authorities accountable”

Masum Billah is a community leader from the Khulna municipality. He has received training from ARTICLE 19 on how to use the right to information law in Bangladesh.

Local communities along the Rupsha river reached out to Masum, concerned that rice and wood husk mills were being established in violation of environmental laws, negatively impacting their health. Masum filed an application to the Department of Environment asking for disclosure of a full list of mills and factories with and without clearance. When this was disclosed, it became clear that half of them did not have the proper clearance, increasing the risk of environmental pollution and threatening the health of the local inhabitants.

Masum’s organisation, Social and Environment Movement (SEIAM), is now taking legal action against the Department of Environment and Khulna Development Authority (KDA) and campaigning for the removal of the illegally established mills.

“ARTICLE 19 has introduced me to a new tool for holding local government and authorities accountable to their responsibilities for protecting the environment and for greater disclosure.”

Masum’s case is not the only one. Since establishing our pilot program in Bangladesh, ARTICLE 19 has trained over 50 community activists and local leaders in using the Right to Information Act, resulting in 45 information requests filed on environmental issues.
Combating Violence Against Women in Brazil through improved information

Violence against women is at epidemic levels in Brazil. According to a UN Women report, a woman is assaulted every 15 seconds in Sao Paulo, Brazil’s largest city. To address the issue, Brazil passed a progressive law on domestic violence in 2006. The Law on Domestic Violence (known as Maria da Penha Law) provides for more severe penalties for aggressors, but also for the creation of a unified, nation-wide data information system on the number of cases of violence against women. This system is not yet in place, which makes it impossible to assess the degree of enforcement and the impact of the measures established by the Maria da Penha Law. For a number of years, ARTICLE 19 led campaign efforts to establish this system in collaboration with women’s rights groups in the country.

These efforts bore fruit in 2013. As part of its second national plan of action for the Open Government Partnership, the Brazilian Government committed to create a National Information System by December 2014, as provided for in the Maria da Penha Law. This National Information System will collect and input data about the implementation of public policies related to violence against women, which hopefully will lead to a more impactful, coordinated effort to combat the problem.
Linking Access to Education and Information: A case study from Indonesia

In Indonesia, parents of poor and marginalized school children used the Freedom of Information (FoI) Law to hold schools to account for how they used school funds, enabling them to claim their right to quality basic education.

The challenge

Despite Indonesia’s significant progress in meeting the MDGs targets in education, challenges remain. Regional differences are stark, with remote and poor areas lagging behind. To address education challenges, in 2005 the Government launched educational financial reforms designed to provide incentives for schools to maintain and increase enrolment, and giving schools greater say over how funds are spent in order to meet local needs. However, studies indicate the lack of access to information has significantly undermined the effectiveness these reforms. Many parents are not aware of the details that could affect their children or the opportunities to participate in decision-making processes, while schools often do not proactively communicate information on budgets or the use of funds. The lack of transparency and public monitoring means that the potential misuse and misallocation of educational funds remains unchecked.

Grassroots engagement

In 2012-13 ARTICLE 19 and our partner in Indonesia, Pusat Telaah dan Informasi Regional (PATTIRO), worked to empower 2 local communities to use the 2010 Freedom of Information Law to obtain information on education assistance and to participate in the use of education funds.

Eighty-nine parents in the two districts were trained on using the 2010 FoI Law to realise their right to information on the educational funding of their children. Through their information requests, the parents checked the financial budget for the procurement of goods and services and compared it to the appropriate cost for those goods and services. They also conducted a price/value comparison of the quality of goods or services to check value for money.

“Extraordinary” Results

The parents reported their findings and identified discrepancies in the use of the funds to the local school committees, and notified them of their intention to continue to request the information and report future discrepancies to the authorities. But there were more immediate and personal results of the information requests as well.

For example, poor parents who had never received any assistance from the educational fund requested information from their school on the criteria used to determine recipients of school fee and uniform subsidies, and those meeting the criteria demanded their right to education assistance from the school.

The project demonstrated the thirst for information in the surrounding communities well: one team noted that after some of the RTI training workshops, parents from other schools would be waiting outside to enquire about how to receive the same training and project in their own areas.

Parents from both communities reported feeling “energised” by realising their power and potential in holding authority officials to account. The Serang team reported back that the results of their financial review were “extraordinary” they had never thought they could take such an action to hold the schools accountable before.
The days of the “anything goes” internet driven primarily by technology considerations are fading. While people often view the Internet, and digital communications more generally, as powerful enablers of free speech, the power to realise or restrict FoE increasingly lies with the state and private sector through the levers of control they exert. People experience digital communications through media which are predominantly owned and operated by the private sector and in a regulatory environment established by states which is growing increasingly restrictive to FoE. This control extends not only to physical access, but also increasingly to content. Protection and respect of human rights are often a secondary issue when questions of regulation and infrastructure are tabled, with technical and regulatory discussions in the international fora often operating on separate tracks to human rights. The challenges to FoE online were brought home more acutely by the Snowden mass surveillance revelations.

All this requires stronger advocacy for progressive human rights standards on FoE, as well as efforts to equip individuals and media to better realise their human rights. This is where ARTICLE 19 can make a difference.

In light of the challenges to digital FoE, ARTICLE 19 significantly increased our engagement on digital protection. We invested a significant amount of resources in work to incorporate a human rights framework into the discussions about internet governance and the future of the Internet. This included contributing to a document setting out surveillance standards that would protect freedom of expression and information as well as hosting a meeting for central civil society actors working on internet governance to map out key issues. We also collaborated with other freedom of expression and civil liberties groups in the United Kingdom (UK) to form the “Don’t Spy On Us” campaign to fight back against mass surveillance.

Groundbreaking policies

ARTICLE 19 launched three key policies that positioned us at the forefront of freedom of expression issues online:

• **The Right to Share: Principles of Freedom of Expression and Copyright in the Digital Age.**
  This proposed a framework to balance the right to freedom of expression and copyright. The reaction to these principles exceeded our expectation, with positive endorsements from leading digital rights activists, corporations and governments. To further our reach, the principles were launched locally in Brazil, Mexico and Indonesia. As a direct result of this work, we have been invited by the Council of Europe to comment on a compendium on Internet users’ rights.

• **The Right to Blog:** This provided policy recommendations for bloggers and other social communicators working in the public interest. Our regional offices have been crucial in taking the policy recommendations to a local level by reaching out to bloggers to help them use the policy to defend themselves from attacks.

• **Internet Intermediaries: Dilemma of Liability.**
  This provided policy recommendations on intermediary liability online. Whether and when communications platforms like Google, Twitter and Facebook (the “intermediaries”) are liable for their users’ online activities is a key freedom of speech and information issue. We received positive reaction to this policy, with actors from Google to the Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF) and the Fundamental Rights Agency reaching out to partner with us as a result.
International Principles, National Impact

Since 2012, ARTICLE 19 has been developing guidelines on how basic principles of freedom of expression should be incorporated into policy decisions, laws and regulations governing ICTs. Based on a survey conducted by an independent evaluator, ARTICLE 19 is now considered to be a major non-governmental player on ICT reform. ARTICLE 19 staff in Brazil, Tunisia and the UK are sought out to present the case for FoE in national, regional and international sessions, including presenting the Right to Blog policy at the Internet Governance Council meeting in Indonesia.

In Brazil, ARTICLE 19 is the major local civil society organisation defending FoE and using FoE principles to shape ICT issues. We were engaged heavily with the Brazilian Congress and other civil society organisations (CSOs) on the adoption of the Marco Civil (Brazil’s Civil Rights Framework for the Internet) providing multiple analyses of different provisions. We advised the Internet Governance Council on FoE issues and helped draft the principles they circulated. Our analyses are used by key stakeholders, such as Google, to understand the implications of proposed regulations.

ARTICLE 19 Brazil has gained particular expertise in the area of bloggers protection. Based on our Right to Blog policy, the office launched an initiative to reach out to the blogging community and online reporters to train them on their rights and responsibilities, as well as provide legal support. These individuals have faced increasing pressure and intimidation, including lawsuits and death threats. To draw attention to the issue, we launched the Right to Blog policy locally along with a report mapping violations against bloggers on World Press Freedom Day. We also held seminars to train them on their legal rights and provided follow-on support.

Iran: Protecting Activists Online

ARTICLE 19’s Iran programme reached out to activists online, in Iran but predominantly in the Iranian diaspora, to help them realise the right to freedom of expression. 2013 witnessed increased repression of online activity and expression in the run-up to the Presidential election. Sadly, the initial promise of more openness under the Rouhani presidency seems to have been more style than substance. We sought to defend and expand virtual space for free expression online, while combating the Iranian regime’s digital affront on activists and civil society. Our work connected Iranian digital activists and civil society with allies, including software developers, expert digital security trainers, and free expression activists.

In 2013, two key initiatives of ARTICLE 19’s Iran programme worked to improve the ability of activists to fight back against censorship and government interference.

Internet Security Capacity Building
We worked with internet security experts to train activists on how to be safer online. To expand our reach, we filmed the trainings and edited them into short, interactive videos posted online. The videos are layered, so more windows open on any clickable topic if users are interested to delve deeper into the subject. The videos are subtitled in English and Farsi.

Computer Crimes in Iran Report
ARTICLE 19 released an influential report that maps the structure and history of internet censorship in Iran. Based on testimonies collected from victims of the new Computer Crimes Law in Iran as well as a number of expert opinions written exclusively for ARTICLE 19, the study ends with recommendations and is accompanied by an infographic which outlines the complex layers and ways of censorship in Iran over the decade. Our work in this area was cited by the UN Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran.
Through the generous support of our donors, ARTICLE 19 was able to increase our ability to meet the global challenges facing freedom of expression and information in 2013. We received the highest ever amount of resources to invest in our work. We used these to:

- strengthen the talent we have in our regional offices, including solidifying our work in our new Myanmar and Tunisia programme offices,
- establish a presence in the United States,
- build our internal capacity to monitor our impact and effectiveness as an organisation
- develop cutting-edge policies on difficult issues like hate speech and online freedoms

2013 marked a point of transition for ARTICLE 19. Dr. Agnes Callamard resigned as Executive Director of ARTICLE 19 to lead the Global Freedom of Expression Initiative at Columbia University. Dr. Callamard was the architect of ARTICLE 19’s global expansion. Under her leadership, the organisation more than doubled in size and impact. She passionately believed that the organisation belonged on the front lines of freedom of expression, and tirelessly worked to establish our presence around the globe and in international bodies.

ARTICLE 19 is fortunate to bring Thomas Hughes on board as our new Executive Director to continue to expand our impact.

In 2014, ARTICLE 19 will begin our next phase of strategic planning with an eye towards the shifts in the FoE landscape. Whilst the future of FoE is uncertain, we can renew our conviction in our mission and vision, and continue to work at the frontier of freedom of expression and information.

Looking back, looking forward

Thomas Hughes joined ARTICLE 19 as Executive Director on 1 October 2013.

For the past 15 years Thomas has worked on press freedom, media development and Human Rights issues, including as Deputy Director of the Copenhagen based press freedom organisation, International Media Support (IMS) between 2005 and 2010, as well as previously for the European Commission and OSCE.

He is the founder and former Director of the social purpose enterprise, Media Frontiers, which runs Diversity, the international advertising network for online news media from Human Rights repressed countries, and VirtualRoad.org, the secure hosting service that protects websites of civil society organisations. Thomas continues to be a board member of Media Frontiers.
ARTICLE 19 works so that people everywhere can express themselves freely, access information and enjoy freedom of the press. We understand freedom of expression as three things:

1. **Freedom of expression is the right to speak**
   - It is the right to voice political, cultural, social and economic opinions
   - It is the right to dissent
   - It makes electoral democracy meaningful and builds public trust in administration.

2. **Freedom of expression is freedom of the press**
   - It is the right of a free and independent media to report without fear, interference, persecution or discrimination
   - It is the right to provide knowledge, give voice to the marginalised and to highlight corruption
   - It creates an environment where people feel safe to question government action and to hold power accountable.

3. **Freedom of expression is the right to know**
   - It is the right to access all media, internet, art, academic writings, and information held by government
   - It is the right to use when demanding rights to health, to a clean environment, to truth and to justice
   - It holds governments accountable for their promises, obligations and actions, preventing corruption which thrives on secrecy.

ARTICLE 19 envisages a world where people are free to speak their opinions, to participate in decision-making, and to make informed choices about their lives.

In order to do be able to do so, people everywhere must be able to exercise their right to freedom of expression and their right to information. Without these rights, democracy, good governance and development cannot happen.
What we do

Established in 1987, ARTICLE 19 defends freedom of expression and information. We fight for hostages of censorship, defend dissenting voices that have been muzzled, and campaign against laws and practices that silence.

“Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive, and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.”

We take our name from Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

We champion freedom of expression, including freedom of information, as a fundamental human right that is also central to the protection of other rights. Freedom of expression allows people to demand the right to health, to a clean environment, to memory and to justice. It makes electoral democracy meaningful and builds public trust in administration. It strengthens mechanisms to hold governments accountable for their promises, obligations and actions. It provides external checks on state accountability, and thus prevents corruption which thrives on secrecy and closed environments.

We provide expertise on international human rights standards and legislation that protects the right to speak and right to know in countries around the world and in international bodies.

We campaign to safeguard media pluralism, independence and diversity of views.

Trustees

ARTICLE 19 is governed by an International Board of Trustees (Directors under company law).

The International Board of Trustees meets twice a year to provide strategic direction for the organisation, and to monitor the work of the Executive Director. The Operations committee, which looks at financial and operational matters meets monthly.

Trustees provide ongoing advice and expertise to the organisation on issues relevant to their skills, which cover, finance, policy, charitable and human resources issues.

Aung San Suu Kyi is an honorary board member.

There are currently nine Trustees:

- Catherine Smadja (Chair), Head of Special Projects, Policy & Strategy, BBC, UK
- Nigel Saxby-Soffe (Treasurer), UK
- Evan Harris, free speech campaigner, UK
- Galina Arapova, Director, Mass Media Defence Centre, Russia
- Lydia Cacho, Journalist, Mexico
- Malak Poppovic, Senior Advisor, Conectas Direitos Humanos, Brazil
- Jennifer Robinson, Director of Legal Advocacy, Bertha Foundation, UK (joined in July 2013)
- Kamel Labidi, Journalist, Tunisia (joined in July 2013)
- Paddy Coulter, Director, Oxford Global Media, UK (joined in December 2013)

Liz Kennedy, Human Resources specialist, UK left the Board in December 2013
Financial Summary

Sources of Income

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2012</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Government agencies</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
<td>6.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trusts and Foundations</td>
<td>11.6%</td>
<td>28.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NGOs</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>11.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional &amp; multinational bodies</td>
<td>62.5%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
<td>2.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Expenditure by activity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2012</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Africa Projects</td>
<td>£ 968,240 26.5%</td>
<td>£ 717,309 25.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia Projects</td>
<td>£ 236,767 6.5%</td>
<td>£ 162,069 5.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europe projects</td>
<td>£ 413,606 11.3%</td>
<td>£ 390,576 14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global projects</td>
<td>£ 700,597 19.2%</td>
<td>£ 378,985 13.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latin America Projects</td>
<td>£ 473,783 13%</td>
<td>£ 282,561 10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law and Policy projects</td>
<td>£ 277,775 7.6%</td>
<td>£ 426,084 15.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle East &amp; North Africa projects</td>
<td>£ 496,202 13.6%</td>
<td>£ 371,235 13.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Governance</td>
<td>£ 55,943 1.5%</td>
<td>£ 31,056 1.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>£ 26,554 0.8%</td>
<td>£ 40,875 1.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>£ 3,649,457 100%</td>
<td>£ 2,800,750 100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Our Supporters

ARTICLE 19 wishes to thank our funders for the vital support they provide to our work.

Adessium Foundation
Baring Foundation
Canadian High Commission
Danish International Development Agency (Danida)
Department for International Development (DFID)
Deutsche Gesellschaft fur Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
DOEN Foundation
Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs
European Commission
Ford Foundation
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
Freedom House
Fritt Ord
John Ellerman Foundation
Kenya Media Programme, Hivos
MacArthur Foundation
Misa – Media Institute of Southern Africa
Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Open Society Foundations
Swedish International Development and Co-operation Agency (Sida)
William and Flora Hewlett Foundation
United Nations Development Fund
United Nations Economic, Social and Cultural Organisation
United States Department of State (USDoS)