

ESTABLISHED
1976

CHR



COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS

OF THE NAS, NAE, AND NAM



PRISON VISITS
TRIAL MONITORING
REPORTING
SOLIDARITY
ENGAGEMENT

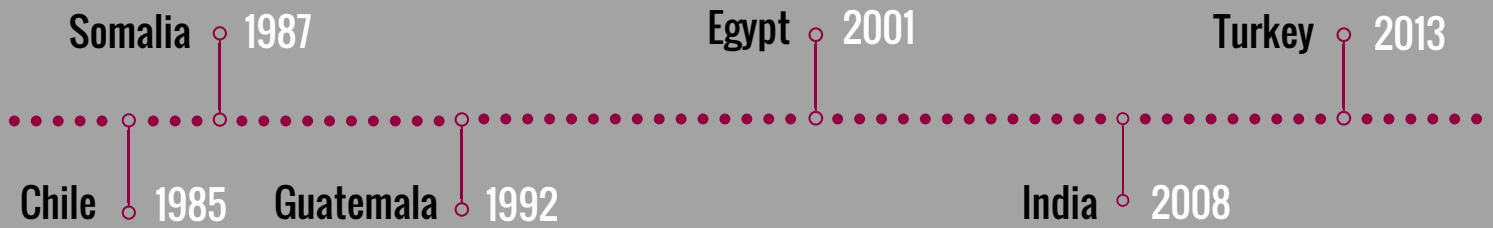
MISSIONS

CHILE
SOMALIA
GUATEMALA
EGYPT
INDIA
TURKEY



www.nationalacademies.org/humanrights

The Committee on Human Rights (CHR) strives to help colleagues whose fundamental human rights are severely abused, including, where possible, travel to the countries concerned. During its 40-year history, CHR has undertaken eight missions to six countries, including:



Types of Activities

CHR missions vary in size and scope. Efforts have included meetings with government officials and other relevant individuals, trial observations, and visits with imprisoned colleagues and their family members. Following its missions, CHR publishes its findings and continues to advocate on behalf of its colleagues until their cases are resolved.



Prison visits



Advocacy with government officials



Trial observation



Visits with families and/or legal counsel of imprisoned colleagues



Follow-up reports, op-eds, & other publications



Meetings with civil society & scientific colleagues

Some of the Somali scientists shortly after their release from prison



October 25 - November 1, 1987:

A CHR delegation traveled to **MOGADISHU** to gather information and express concern regarding charges brought against **ELEVEN** imprisoned scientific colleagues held in solitary confinement for more than **FIVE** years for the nonviolent expression of their beliefs. **CHR** was one of very few human rights delegations permitted entry into **SOMALIA**. Following CHR advocacy efforts, the Somali government informed CHR that its colleagues were **RELEASED** on March 6, 1989.

Forms of Impact

Early release and acquittal

During or following CHR's missions, 27 individuals have been acquitted or released early from prison or internal exile. For example, in 1985, CHR sent a fact-finding delegation to **Chile** to voice concern about tortured, imprisoned, and "disappeared" colleagues, as well as **six scientific and medical professionals** banished to internal exile for the nonviolent expression of their beliefs. During its mission the delegation was directly informed by the government that the colleagues for whom they had appealed had been released from exile.

Accountability

In 2003, CHR undertook a mission to **Guatemala** to observe the trial of two high-level Guatemalan military officials who were charged with ordering the 1990 murder of Guatemalan anthropologist **Myrna Mack**. Colonel Juan Valencia Osorio was convicted and given a 30-year sentence, marking the first time in Guatemalan history that a high-level military official was brought to justice for atrocities committed during Guatemala's 30-year civil war. Prior to the judgement, CHR produced several reports and updates on the case, as well as many appeals for justice and accountability.

Awareness raising

In 2013, CHR undertook a joint mission with the German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina to **Turkey** after serious charges were brought against **eight Turkish scientific colleagues** in cases fraught with due process violations. A subsequent mission report and press articles raised awareness of these cases. All imprisoned colleagues whose cases were raised during the mission were subsequently released.

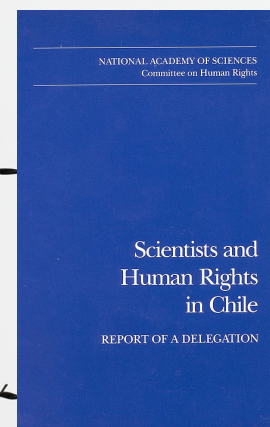
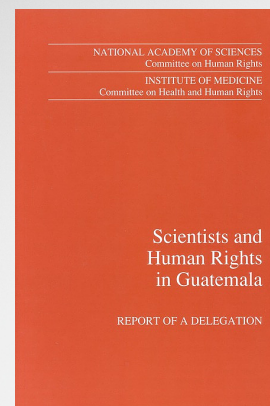
Solidarity and moral support

In 2001, CHR sent observers to the trial hearings of sociology professor and human rights advocate **Saad Eddin Ibrahim** in Cairo, **Egypt**. The charges brought against Professor Ibrahim were widely regarded as politically motivated. The delegation met with Professor Ibrahim and his wife before and after his hearings and shared information about their situation with members of the international scientific community. CHR also called on its correspondents to write letters of support to Professor Ibrahim and his family. In 2003, Egypt's highest civil court cleared Professor Ibrahim of all charges.



“ When a human rights defender becomes himself vulnerable to human rights violations by his own government...one could easily feel utter despair. And that would be the case for hundreds of prisoners of conscience in the third world if it were not for the watchful and compassionate eye of groups like the Committee on Human Rights. ”
Saad Eddin Ibrahim

Then CHR Director Carol Corillon, Saad Eddin Ibrahim, and then CHR Chair Torsten Wiesel



How You Can Help



Contact CHR:

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The major obstacle that CHR faces as it seeks to mount new missions is the need for additional funds. Please consider making a contribution that will allow the Committee to continue and enhance its role as the voice of human rights for the three Academies.

You can make a secure online gift at www.nasonline.org/giftform, or contact CHR via phone or email.



“ The support of my professional colleagues, and of the academic community across the world, has been invaluable in securing my freedom. The Committee on Human Rights...arranged to pay me a visit while I was still in jail...This was a cherished occasion...The letters and postcards my scientist colleagues wrote to me while I was in jail are also treasured memories...Then as now, I was personally dumbfounded and humbled by this groundswell of support, which I can only attribute to shared recognition of our common cause of human rights. ” Dr. Binayak Sen

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In 2008, a CHR delegation traveled to Chhattisgarh State, India to visit, and appeal for the release of, Dr. Binayak Sen - a respected medical doctor who was given a life sentence due to the criminalization of his peaceful human rights work. In 2011, India's Supreme Court ordered Dr. Sen's release on bail pending an ongoing appeal.

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