ANNUAL REPORT 2016/2017
Pursuing justice through science and law
WHERE WE’VE BEEN IN 2016

- **HUMAN RIGHTS CENTER**
  Australia | The Netherlands | Uganda | United States:
  Los Angeles, CA, Oakland, CA, San Francisco, CA,
  Washington, DC, Knoxville, TN, New York, NY, Pittsburgh, PA

- **FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM**
  Brazil | Egypt | Greece | India | Pakistan | Rwanda |
  Singapore | Uganda | United States: Indio, CA, San Joaquin Valley, CA, San Francisco, CA, New York, NY, Rosebud Reservation, SD, Texas/Mexico Border | West Bank

- **SEXUAL VIOLENCE PROGRAM**
  Germany | Greece | Italy | Macedonia | Senegal | Serbia |
  Switzerland | The Netherlands | Uganda | United Kingdom | United States: Washington, DC

- **HUMAN RIGHTS AND TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM**
  Pakistan | The Netherlands | United States: Los Angeles, CA, Point Reyes, CA, New York, NY

- **FORENSIC PROJECT**
  Chile | El Salvador | United States

- **HUMAN TRAFFICKING PROJECT**
  United States: Oakland, CA, Los Angeles, CA

**FRONT COVER**: Children are playing at a community center in Nablus, a city on the front line of clashes between Israelis and Palestinians. Thanh Mai Bercher, a 2016 Human Rights Center Fellow and UC Berkeley undergraduate student, worked with Project Hope to improve mental health services for young people who have experienced trauma (photo by Thanh Mai Bercher).

**REPORT DESIGN**: Nicole Hayward
The Human Rights Center—winner of the MacArthur Award for Creative and Effective Institutions—conducts research and investigations on war crimes and human rights violations. Using evidence-based methods and innovative technologies, we support efforts to hold perpetrators accountable and to protect vulnerable populations. We also train students and advocates to document human rights violations and turn this information into effective action.

Adam Hochschild, journalist, HRC Advisory Board member

I enthusiastically support the Human Rights Center and am honored to serve on its advisory board because the times we are living in—not just in the United States, but in many countries throughout the world—threaten basic, bedrock human rights in a way I’ve seldom seen in my lifetime. I watched the HRC come into being more than 20 years ago and know that the talented and dedicated people on its staff are in this effort for the long haul.

Real-world impact over two decades

1996 Investigating mass graves at the Srebrenica massacre in Bosnia and prison camps in Prijedor helps convict more than a dozen top military and civilian leaders, including the Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic.

Mapping human rights

ABOVE: Family members gather at an exhumation site in northern Iraq. The mass grave contained the remains of Iraqi Kurds killed during Saddam Hussein’s Anfal Campaign in the late 1980s (photo by Eric Stover).
A student in the newly launched Human Rights Investigations Lab works with Kim Bui, an open source investigations trainer and journalist, to analyze and verify a video of a bombing in Syria (photo by Monica Haulman).

**1999** Employing multi-disciplinary teams of researchers—psychologists, epidemiologists, lawyers, anthropologists, political scientists, educators, artists, and activists from five countries—to help find an answer to one of the most pressing moral dilemmas of our time: How do countries torn apart by war and atrocity, such as Rwanda and Bosnia, pursue justice for past crimes while rebuilding their shattered communities?
Facts matter. Teaching students to verify facts and debunk lies will help strengthen the practice of law and journalism for generations to come.

Alexa Koenig, Executive Director of the Human Rights Center and Co-Manager of the Human Rights Investigations Lab

Participating in this project is without a doubt the best part of my first-year law school experience. I am routinely inspired by how students collaborate and bring together diverse backgrounds and talents to fight for social justice.

Andrea Trewinnard, Berkeley Law student and participant in the Human Rights Investigations Lab

Our Human Rights Investigations Lab, the first university-based open source lab of its kind, trains students to use publicly available sources to investigate human rights violations and war crimes. Working with Amnesty International, the Syrian Archive, and other human rights organizations, the students verify video footage from conflict zones such as Syria, Yemen, Sudan, and Myanmar, as well as document and verify hate speech and hate crimes in the United States.

Our Tech Fellows—drawn from academia and the private sector—spend weeks at the International Criminal Court in The Hague, working with investigators from the Office of the Prosecutor to improve the Court’s ability to capture, analyze, and present digital evidence of war crimes, genocide, and crimes against humanity in trial proceedings.

Alexa Koenig and HRC Research Fellow Keith Hiatt lead the Technology Advisory Board of the International Criminal Court, coordinating a group of tech leaders who offer their expertise to strengthen international justice.

HRC also supports FEM Tech, an innovative student-led project at Berkeley created to build the pipeline of women in technology.
Chadian women in a Dakar courtroom stand up and sing following the conviction of Hissène Habré (photo by Kim Thuy Seelinger).

REAL/WORLD IMPACT
OVER TWO DECADES

2003  Uncovering a mass grave near Mosul, Iraq, following the second Gulf War, reveals the remains of more than a thousand Kurdish women and children. The grave was later exhumed by U.S. forensic experts and introduced as evidence in the trial of Saddam Hussein.

The conviction of Hissène Habré for war crimes and crimes against humanity was a major milestone for international criminal justice and the survivors of horrible atrocities, including sexual violence, who had suffered in silence for decades. I’ll never forget sitting in the row behind the Chadian women in court that day in May. When Judge Kam uttered the word ‘guilty,’ the women all stood up and sang. It was a song they had been holding onto for thirty years.

Kim Thuy Seelinger, Sexual Violence Program Director

Chadian women provided extensive testimony about the rape and sexual slavery committed by former dictator Hissène Habré and his agents during a trial at the Extraordinary African Chambers in Senegal in 2015–2016. However, the charges against Habré did not include rape or sexual violence. Working with international experts like Justice Richard Goldstone and Patricia Viseur Sellers, the Human Rights Center submitted an amicus curiae brief that outlined multiple ways Habré could be charged with sex crimes under both the court’s statute as well as under customary international law. Judges and lawyers involved in the case said the brief’s legal framing was key to convicting Habré of sexual violence as a crime against humanity.

Habré’s guilty verdict represents the first time an African court has prosecuted a former head of state for war crimes and crimes against humanity. The case is a remarkable example of the exercise of “universal jurisdiction,” which holds that anyone, anywhere, can be held accountable for particularly egregious international crimes, no matter where they occurred. The verdict also marks one of the first instances in which a national court has produced such a strong indictment of sexual violence as a crime against humanity.

In 2017, the Sexual Violence Program will continue to provide similar legal support to national and international tribunals and research to promote protection from, and accountability for, sexual violence in humanitarian crises.
2006 Studying the needs of young women who survived sexual enslavement by the Lord’s Resistance Army in Uganda leads the MacArthur Foundation to help establish the Pader Girls Academy, a school for former female child soldiers and their children that has now educated more than 1,000 women.
Our team of UC Berkeley law students is conducting a study of the Los Angeles Sheriff’s Department’s new Human Trafficking Bureau. The students are taking a close look at how service providers, law enforcement, and prosecutors work out of the same building to provide shelter and services to trafficking survivors. It’s a unique model. And rarely do outsiders, especially students, get to see the inner workings of police investigations and witness how crime victims are cared for. Our final report will examine the Bureau’s first year of operations, its innovations and daily challenges, and suggest ways of overcoming them.

Eric Stover, Faculty Director of the Human Rights Center

Human trafficking is one of the world’s fastest growing criminal activities, worth billions of dollars in the United States alone. Although no accurate data exist, it is estimated that the number of sex and labor trafficking victims in the U.S. is in the hundreds of thousands. California has long been a human trafficking hub.

Working in collaboration with the International Human Rights Law Clinic, we are conducting a series of studies in Los Angeles and the Bay Area aimed at helping service providers, prosecutors, police, and policymakers provide wrap-around support to survivors and prosecute traffickers.

In 2017, we are expanding our trafficking research to study the experiences of survivors in California. Our research aims to benefit frontline advocacy organizations and support innovative and effective policy approaches to preventing the sexual exploitation of children.
Children pose with Human Rights Center Fellow Thanh Mai Bercher who worked with Project Hope to improve the response to child trauma in the West Bank (photo by Thanh Mai Bercher).

REAL-WORLD IMPACT

2008 Conducting the world’s first study of former Guantánamo detainees with UC Berkeley’s International Human Rights Law Clinic reveals illegal arrests and detention, torture, and the long-term social and psychological damage of detainees.

2009 Convening one of the first national technology and human rights conferences—the Soul of the New Machine.
Since 1994, the Human Rights Center has provided more than 300 fellowships to graduate and undergraduate students to work with human rights organizations around the world. In 2016, 20 fellows from UC Berkeley, UCLA, UC San Diego, and UC Santa Cruz carried out projects in ten countries. For example, Berkeley Journalism School graduate Laura Klivans investigated the impact of charging children as adults in California and produced a radio series for KQED based on her research. Zahra Khalid, a UC Berkeley master’s student at the College of Environmental Design, worked with the All Pakistan Alliance for Katchi Abadis in Pakistan to support settlement dwellers resisting arbitrary evictions and homelessness.

Suzanne Caflisch, a UC Berkeley graduate, worked with Promundo in Brazil to study the sexual exploitation of girls.

Special thanks to Dr. Thomas J. White for making the program possible, and also to the Ray and Dagmar Dolby Family Fund for sponsoring our fellows in Brazil in 2016 and 2017.

My Human Rights Center fellowship gave me the opportunity to learn first-hand about the experiences of immigrants imprisoned in private jails in the southwestern United States, and how to apply my legal training to help end this terrible practice.

Natalie Schultheis, 2016 HRC Fellow, Berkeley Law student

Above: 2016 HRC Fellow Samuel Contreras, a UC Santa Cruz student, in Social Documentation shoots his documentary on clean water in California’s San Joaquin Valley (photo by Samuel Contreras).

Above right: (Left to right) 2016 HRC Fellow Woojin Jung works with a women’s agricultural group in India (photo by Woojin Jung); 2016 HRC Fellow Brittany Meche, a Ph.D. student in geography at UC Berkeley, worked at the intersection of drugs, law enforcement, terrorism, and climate change.
Julie Freccero spent the latter half of 2016 deployed by the United Nations Population Fund in Greece, where she coordinated and improved responses to gender-based violence in the refugee camps. She helped develop standard procedures for referring survivors to services, trained service providers, and advised on day-to-day gender-based violence crises. She identified gaps that put people at risk and led national-level advocacy initiatives, including issuing a “Call to Action,” in collaboration with Oxfam, to improve gender-based violence prevention and response, increase access to sexual and reproductive health services, and promote women’s participation and empowerment.

“Women consistently say they don’t feel safe in the refugee camps in Greece. The basic design exacerbates the risk of gender-based violence. Lighting in the camps is poor. Showers aren’t separated by gender. Toilets are far away from sleeping areas, which makes people afraid to walk to them at night. As gender-based violence practitioners, we really need to work closely with planners and Greek authorities to make these sites safer for women and girls.”

Julie Freccero, Associate Director of the Sexual Violence Program
Events

The Human Rights Center works with campus partners to present timely, in-depth event series that are designed to move conversations forward. In 2015/2016, we sponsored “The [In]Justice System” with the Human Rights Program, bringing together scholars, advocates, and people who were formerly incarcerated to talk about racism, solitary confinement, and medical and mental health issues in California prisons. In 2016/2017, we are sponsoring a “Gun Violence in America” series that delves into contentious legal and policy issues as well as potential solutions.

*Hiding in Plain Sight: The Pursuit of War Criminals from Nuremberg to the War on Terror* and “Dead Reckoning: War, Crime, and Justice from World War II to the War on Terror”


Former NAACP Executive Director Ben Jealous delivers the keynote for the [In]Justice System series on mass incarceration.

2011 Pioneering the use of DNA technology to reunite hundreds of children who were illegally adopted during El Salvador’s civil war with their biological families.

Makani Themba, a community leader and communications expert, speaks at Berkeley Law about racism and gun violence.

Hiding in Plain Sight authors Victor Peskin, Eric Stover, and Alexa Koenig (front) with University of California Press’s Peter Perez at the Bay Area Book Festival.
Human Rights Center staff members (left to right) Kim Thuy Seelinger, Andrea Lampros, Alexa Koenig, Alexey Berlind, Khaled Alrabe, Kat Madrigal, and Eric Stover at a staff retreat in Point Reyes, California.

Staff and Students

Eric Stover, Faculty Director and Adjunct Professor of Law and Public Health
Alexa Koenig, Executive Director and Lecturer-in-Residence
Khaled Alrabe, Researcher
Alexey Berlind, Programs Administrator and Events Coordinator
Julie Freccero, Sexual Violence Program Associate Director
Andrea Lampros, Communications Director
Kat Madrigal, Fundraising Coordinator
Kim Thuy Seelinger, Sexual Violence Program Director
Audrey Whiting, Fellowship Coordinator

Student Researchers and Staff

Hannah Bagdasar          Michelle Lee          Kevin Reyes
Jessica Caplin           Sander Lutz           Sayaka Ri
Naomi Fenwick           Marcos Martinez       Maria Tourtchaninova
Lizzie Fulton            Nikita Mehandru      Kevin Walker
Alexandra Gonzalez       Aaron Murphy          Richard Weir
Monica Haulman           Darby O’Donnell      Audrey Whiting
Alec Konstantin          Peggy O’Donnell
Stefanie Le              Shah Raafi

A special thanks to former HRC staff members who moved on in 2016:
Stephen Cody, Atrocity Response Program Director
Keith Hiatt, Human Rights and Technology Program Director
Julie Lagarde, Fellowship Coordinator

2016 Human Rights Center Fellows: pictured (left to right) Ellen Darius, Laura Klivans, Zahra Khaled, Dickson Su, Sam Conteras, Brittany Meché, Mary Dahdouh, Cristian Gonzalez, Thanh Mai Bercher, Julia Sizek, Natalie Schulteis, Megan Lang, and Marko Pekac with Fellowship Program benefactor Thomas J. White; Not pictured: Tria Blu Wakpa, Suzanne Caflisch, Melissa Carlson, Margaret Mary Downey, Woojin Jung, Shikha Silliman Bhattacharjee.
Advisory Board and Fellows

Advisory Board
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Deborah Goldblatt, Screenwriter, Community Volunteer
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Harvey Weinstein

Human Rights Center Research Fellows
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Victor Peskin
Ben Schiff
Karl Schoenberger
David Tuller
Cathy Zimmerman

IN MEMORIAM
Advisory Board member Martina Knee, who worked tirelessly with the Bay Area Save Darfur Coalition, died this year. She was a generous and steadfast supporter of the Human Rights Center and we are incredibly grateful to her and her family.

REAL-WORLD IMPACT
OVER TWO DECADES

2013
Individual Donors

In 2016, the Human Rights Center received an outpouring of support from individuals—significantly surpassing 2015 and every year since our founding in 1994. We depend on your support and thank you for making our work possible. We are grateful and committed to making sure every dollar strengthens our work for human rights.

Briana Abrams
Hesham Al-Alusi
Khaled Alrabe
Bridget Baird
Gail Bensinger
Ross Benson
Alexey Berlind
Caroline Bonesteel
Patty Blum
Elizabeth Bruce and Robert Michael Oliver
Richard Buxbaum and Catherine Hartshorne
Estate of Nina Byers
Rosemary Chalk and Michael Stoto
Harry Chotiner
Abby Cohen (IHO Nancy Carol Bell and Stephen Shorofsky)
David Condra
Ellen Daniell and David Gelfand
Joanne DePhillips
Michele DiTommas
Nicholas DuBroff

Real-World Impact

Bringing together human rights activists, journalists, and investigators in Salzburg, Austria, to create a road map for using digital tools in legal investigations.
Over Two Decades

2015

Conducting the first study of victims and witnesses who testify at the International Criminal Court helps shape how international courts treat survivors of war crimes.

Local Business Support

Books, Inc.
Berkeley Bowl
Brushstrokes Studio
Cheese Board Collective
Philz Coffee
Trader Joe’s
Whole Foods Market

Many Thanks to Our UC Berkeley Partners:

Human Rights Program, International Human Rights Law Clinic, Graduate School of Journalism, School of Public Health, Social Science Matrix, Thelton E. Henderson Center for Social Justice, and Undergraduate Research Apprentice Program (URAP)

Foundations and Corporations

American Cultures Engaged Scholarship (UC Berkeley)
Berkeley Center for Long-Term Cybersecurity
Berkeley Center for Teaching and Learning
Berkeley Collegium
Berkeley Student Tech Fund

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Open Society Justice Initiative
Sigrid Rausing Trust
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Meike Weyrauch (IHO Thomas J. White)
Karina White
Thomas J. White
Susan Whitman and Mark Gergen
Erica Williams (IMO Robert Bruce Williams)
Herman and Renee Winick (IMO Joe Birman)
2016 Financial Report

**HUMAN RIGHTS CENTER**

The numbers

- **250** students in **5** classes
- **20** Human Rights Center Fellows in **10** countries
- **3** staff awards
- **21** events with more than **1000** attendees
- **104** donors who contributed **$415,220**
- **17** foundations supporting our work
- **$104,560** in donations and pledges raised in just **24** hours during UC Berkeley’s Big Give
- **$1800** in Big Give prize money
- **15,400** Twitter followers
- **1,852** likes on Facebook
- **113** Instagram followers
- (hint: follow us @HRCBerkeley!)
- **62** students trained and working in the Human Rights Investigations Lab

**REAL-WORLD IMPACT OVER TWO DECADES**

2016 **Enabling more than 300 students from seven University of California campuses to work with local human rights organizations worldwide.**

**REVENUE**

- **Individual Donations $415,220** (33.9%)
- **Endowment Income $39,247** (3.2%)
- **UC Berkeley $37,500** (3.1%)
- **Misc $2,270** (2.2%)
- **TOTAL $1,225,363**

**EXPENSES**

- **Salaries (non-program) $252,992** (17.9%)
- **Development and Supplies $25,000** (1.8%)
- **University Overhead $80,971** (5.7%)
- **TOTAL $1,414,697**

**PROGRAMS BREAKDOWN**

- **Fellowship Program $87,425** (7.3%)
- **Atrocity Response $155,938** (13.1%)
- **Human Rights and Technology Program $291,000** (24.4%)
- **Human Trafficking in California $150,000** (12.6%)
- **Sexual Violence Program $507,500** (42.6%)
- **TOTAL $1,191,863**

*Based on 2016 budgeting*

2016 Financial Report

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT**

The Human Rights Center relies on your contributions to:

- investigate war crimes
- support survivors
- research human rights
- train the next generation

Please send your tax-deductible donation to the Human Rights Center: 396 Simon Hall, UC Berkeley School of Law, Berkeley, CA 94720. To make a gift online, visit hrc.berkeley.edu and click “Donate.” Thank you!
UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS PREAMBLE

- Whereas recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world,
- Whereas disregard and contempt for human rights have resulted in barbarous acts which have outraged the conscience of mankind, and the advent of a world in which human beings shall enjoy freedom of speech and belief and freedom from fear and want has been proclaimed as the highest aspiration of the common people,
- Whereas it is essential, if man is not to be compelled to have recourse, as a last resort, to rebellion against tyranny and oppression, that human rights should be protected by the rule of law,
- Whereas it is essential to promote the development of friendly relations between nations,
- Whereas the peoples of the United Nations have in the Charter reaffirmed their faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person and in the equal rights of men and women and have determined to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom,
- Whereas Member States have pledged themselves to achieve, in co-operation with the United Nations, the promotion of universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms,
- Whereas a common understanding of these rights and freedoms is of the greatest importance for the full realization of this pledge . . .
A mural that reads "break the silence" is painted on the wall of a counseling center on the island of Rhodes in Greece (Photo by Julie Freccero).