



TRIAL
International



2021 Activity Report



THANKS TO TRIAL INTERNATIONAL'S RESOLVE OVER THE PAST 20 YEARS, THERE HAS BEEN A MARKED PUSHBACK AGAINST IMPUNITY. GOING FORWARD WE INTEND TO DOUBLE DOWN ON OUR ACTIONS.

Dear supporters,

Twenty years ago in June 2002, lawyers, human rights activists and victims of international crimes gathered in Geneva to discuss the launch of an association to give hope to war crimes survivors in their pursuit of justice. We could never have imagined that 20 years on we would still be engaged in this cause as one of the most active, credible and innovative NGOs in the fight against impunity.

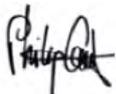
Despite the Covid 19 pandemic, TRIAL International has absolutely no intention of letting justice off the hook. The numbers speak for themselves. In 2021 we supported 1,711 victims in their pursuit of justice. Among them were 291 survivors of sexual violence, comprising women, men and children. We also brought 25 cases before the national and international courts.

The current dramatic events in Ukraine must not make us forget other situations where the thirst for justice is not yet quenched. Instead they should encourage us to be more responsive and to develop new tools to provide justice more quickly. It is our business to ensure this happens. Universal jurisdiction has enormous potential: cases we have been following for years should very soon be brought before courts across a number of countries. Our work regarding the responsibility of corporate actors and the devastation inflicted on the environment in times of conflict is also beginning to bear fruit.

Our mission has never been so important. Thanks to your help and support, we will continue to tackle challenges head on and in doing so open up new avenues to justice.

Thanks to each and everyone of you!

Philip Grant
Executive Director



Leslie Haskell
President



TRIAL International is a non-governmental organization fighting impunity for international crimes and supporting victims in their quest for justice. Established in 2002, the organization has offices in Switzerland, Bosnia and Herzegovina and the African Great Lakes region, together with a local structure in Nepal. It also conducts investigations, submits cases and advocates in several other countries, including The Gambia and Mexico.

TRIAL INTERNATIONAL'S IMPACT IN 2021

We supported **1,711** victims, despite the ongoing constraints of pandemic restrictions, **96%** of whom were represented in legal proceedings, including:



892
women



291
victims of sexual
violence

We trained **494** people, including lawyers, human rights defenders, judicial actors and various members of civic society:

240

Women

254

Men

We brought **25** new cases, both independently and jointly:

22

Before national courts

3

Before international bodies



517

victims obtained
favorable decisions



10

perpetrators of
crimes convicted



115

ongoing
proceedings,
80 at the national
level and 35 at the
international level



7

verdicts at
national level
and 9 favorable
decisions at
international level



5

reparation
decisions

CUMULATIVE IMPACT SINCE 2002

6,684 victims supported,
including 1,289 survivors
of sexual violence

2,413 practitioners
trained

449 cases opened

THE AFRICAN GREAT LAKES

- 14 NEW CASES
- 8 PERPETRATORS CONVICTED
- CHF 1,647,640 ANNUAL EXPENSES



Former Congolese army member sentenced to life imprisonment for mass crimes: recognition of environmental crimes and protection for child soldiers

On 21 September 2021 following a mobile court trial near Kahuzi Biega Park, South Kivu, the verdict was delivered against Chance Muhonya Kolokolo, militiaman and former Congolese armed forces member. Accused of mass atrocities and environmental crimes, he was convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment for crimes against humanity, including murder, rape, and other inhumane acts, and additionally for war crimes relating to the recruitment and use of child soldiers, and for violation and destruction of protected areas.

In 2019 Mr. Muhonya had formed a militia to regain control and illegally extract the natural resources, mostly timber and minerals, of Kahuzi Biega National Park. The militia quarried the land and felled trees to sell on as wood and coal. The militia used excessive violence to terrorize neighboring villages and committed numerous abuses. Mr. Muhonya forcibly recruited a large number of children aged 12 to 15.

In May 2020 Mr. Muhonya was arrested and handed over to the Military Justice authorities. Two Congolese lawyers trained on international criminal law were mandated by TRIAL International to represent the 90 victims.

According to Guy Mushiata, TRIAL International's National Coordinator (DRC) based in Bukavu, *"This decision sets a very important precedent, especially as the court has recognized the gravity of the environmental crimes committed in the national park in connection with the illegal economic activities carried out by the armed group."*

The court awarded financial compensation to the victims. The Congolese state was found civilly liable.

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

- 2 NEW CASES
- 2 PERPETRATORS OF CONFLICT RELATED SEXUAL VIOLENCE CONVICTED
- CHF 288,615 ANNUAL EXPENSES



The fight for justice knows no borders

Recognition for victims of war crimes and conflict-related sexual violence, by bringing those responsible to justice and providing access to reparations beyond borders.

In Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), recognition for the violence and crimes suffered by victims and survivors during the bitter 1992 to 1995 war has been long in coming. Through its Sarajevo office TRIAL International continues to assist victims by offering them free legal assistance whilst advocating to implement structural amendments in Bosnian law.

Slobodan Ćurčić, accused of raping and killing civilians in Foča was charged in Montenegro. This is one of the first war crime cases to be transferred from Bosnia and Herzegovina to Montenegro, evidence that the long arm of justice extends beyond the border.

TRIAL International hopes that this example of successful cooperation between judicial institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro, backed by relevant non-governmental organizations, will go on to inspire further positive developments in the fight against impunity.

"Cooperation of prosecutors in the Balkan region is key to prosecuting a greater number of perpetrators of war crimes committed in BiH, since many of them have moved to neighboring countries, attempting to escape justice.", said Ajna Mahmić, TRIAL International's Legal Advisor.

- 5 NEW CASES
- 248 PRACTITIONERS TRAINED
- CHF 169,684 ANNUAL EXPENSES



REAL RIGHTS NOW: the database helping to advance transitional justice in Nepal

Justice remains a distant dream for the victims of the civil war that battered Nepal between 1996 and 2006. A sense of impunity is still taking hold in the country.

TRIAL International and its Nepalese partner, the Human Rights and Justice Center in Kathmandu are committed to uncovering the truth, no matter what. They continue to press the government to meet its obligations to ensure victims and their families are heard and recognized, that justice and truth prevail and reparations awarded.

To help facilitate the process a database called *Real Rights Now* listing every international crime brought before the United Nations Human Rights Committee has been made available to the Nepalese people and the wider international public. Translated into Nepali, it contains details of every case and related judgments, along with an indication of their level of implementation by the government. Included are 26 cases where despite the HRC having ruled in the victim's favor no discernable progress has been made.

"The content has been developed to meet the needs of Nepalese lawyers, policy makers, students and journalists. Our aim is to share information as widely as possible to push the Nepalese authorities to investigate each case, prosecute the perpetrators and compensate the victims," said Cristina Cariello, TRIAL International's Head of Program (Nepal).

INTERNATIONAL INVESTIGATIONS AND LITIGATION

- 2 NEW CASES IDENTIFIED FOR INVESTIGATION
- CHF 426,075 ANNUAL EXPENSES



Universal jurisdiction and transitional justice: indispensable tools to help pushback against impunity in The Gambia

Since 2019 the Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission (TRRC) investigates the numerous abuses that took place under Yahya Jammeh's presidency in Gambia, between 1994 and 2017.

TRIAL International became involved when Ousman Sonko, Interior Minister under Gambian dictator Yahya Jammeh sought asylum in Switzerland. Our organization was alerted to his presence and filed a criminal complaint. Mr. Sonko was immediately arrested and remanded in custody on charges of crimes against humanity. He remains in pre-trial detention. His indictment is being awaited with anticipation in both Switzerland and Gambia.

Thanks to universal jurisdiction and the work of the TRRC, this is not the only Gambian case to have been heard outside its borders. On 2021 Bai L., an alleged former member of the "Junglers" death squad was arrested on suspicion of crimes against humanity and taken into custody in Germany. In September 2019, Michael Sang Correa another alleged former member of the Junglers was arrested in Denver, United States. He was charged in June 2020 on six counts and awaits trial.

"The Gambia is now at an important stage in its history. Future trials envisaged in Switzerland, Germany and the United States based on the principle of universal jurisdiction could greatly contribute to the country's transitional justice process, supporting victims' demands and encouraging the government to prioritize delivering justice for past crimes" said Giulia Soldan, International Investigations and Litigation Program Manager.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED TRUST AND SUPPORT!

TRIAL International works with **more than 90 local and international partners, 32 institutional donors and 262 individual donors** to combat impunity.

We are immensely grateful. Your generosity, support and collaboration have enabled us to continue our important mission to tear down borders wherever justice is concerned, despite the complications posed by pandemic restrictions. **Thank you!**

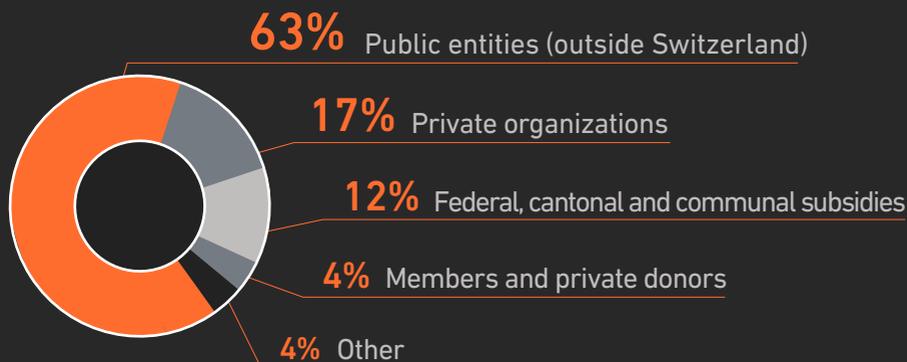
CHF 3,677,618

TOTAL REVENUE

CHF 3,545,938

TOTAL EXPENSES

DONOR CONTRIBUTIONS (as a percentage of revenues)



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*To protect the safety and dignity of victims supported by TRIAL International, photos marked with an * are not those of the victim.*

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