

# TRIAL

TRACK IMPUNITY ALWAYS

ACTIVITY REPORT 2014



# TRIAL IN A FEW WORDS

Founded in 2002 in Geneva, TRIAL is a non-governmental organization that places the law at the service of victims of the most serious crimes (genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, torture and enforced disappearances). TRIAL fights against the impunity of the perpetrators of such crimes, defends the interests of victims before national and international courts, and raises public awareness of the need for justice and the need to mobilize to fight impunity.

TRIAL is registered in Switzerland, is non-political and non-denominational, and is recognized as an organization of public interest. It holds consultative status with the United Nations. The NGO is headquartered in the heart of the global human rights capital and also has teams in the countries where it implements legal programmes in favour of victims.

Since its creation, TRIAL has been awarded several distinctions, reflecting its growing recognition. In 2004, it was awarded the Human Rights Prize by the Geneva daily newspaper *Le Courrier*. In 2008, it received the Encouragement Award from the International Human Rights Forum in Lucerne for its research into the application of human rights to video games. Since 2012, TRIAL has also been included in the *Global Journal* ranking of the world's top 500 NGOs.

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# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

TRIAL has experienced unprecedented growth over the past decade. From a volunteer association when it was first set up in 2002, it has become one of the most effective NGOs in the fight against the impunity of perpetrators of crimes under international law.

A little over ten years after its foundation, it was time for the organization to take stock of the work done and undertake an in-depth reflection on its future. Thus, in 2013, TRIAL adopted its "Horizon 2020" strategic plan, the objectives of which are to strengthen the capacity of victims to fight impunity, and to share the organization's competencies and know-how with its partners. This is a necessary strategy to steer TRIAL towards its new identity as an international NGO and as a strong link in an international network against impunity.

In 2014, the TRIAL Committee oversaw the implementation of the first stages of the strategic plan. The reform of the Committee was initiated with a view to achieving greater efficiency, a closer dialogue with staff and a better selection process of its members. The Committee also took important decisions to support the growth of the organization. One of its priorities is to strengthen the foundations of the organization before developing new programmes. The coming year will be crucial in terms of helping the on-going reforms come to fruition. The Committee will do everything possible to give TRIAL the necessary resources to implement the "Horizon 2020" plan and continue to represent victims of the most serious crimes in their pursuit of justice and reparation.

**Giorgio Malinverni**, President



# MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Victor Hugo said that nothing is more powerful than an idea whose time has come. By that yardstick, the time of international justice and uncompromising action to fight impunity has not yet arrived.

2014 provided several examples of this: the continued bloodshed in Syria; giants like India and Kenya governed by suspects of crimes against humanity; the unspeakable violence in Iraq, Mexico and Nigeria; a judicial system deprived of independence in Guatemala; the ongoing infamy of Guantanamo; the head-on attack on the International Criminal Court by those it is supposed to be judging. Considering the numbers of victims in Algeria, Nepal, Burundi, Bosnia-Herzegovina, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and elsewhere who continue to see their persecutors go unpunished, enduring unending pain and oblivion, the notion of justice has also been somewhat tainted over the past year.

Does the legal struggle still have any meaning given such a grim context? TRIAL continues to believe that it does, and that the law can serve as a powerful tool when effectively harnessed for the benefit of victims of the most serious crimes.

Intelligently conducted investigations, well-prepared complaints, partners supported and trained on the ground, as well as the use of sometimes innovative procedures all give the law back some of its *raison d'être* and power. In 2014, the sentencing in Geneva of a former Guatemalan police chief to life imprisonment for extra-judicial executions, the institution of proceedings against suspects of sexual violence in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the first sentences of Burundi by United Nations bodies and new case law for victims of enforced disappearances in Nepal are examples of the impact that the law can have. These advances hint at a world where, despite all the atrocities committed, justice is not an empty notion. TRIAL has tirelessly struggled to uphold justice and its fight is far from over.

**Philip Grant**, Director





# LEGAL PROGRAMMES

TRIAL was founded in 2002 with a clear vision: make the law work in favor of victims of the most serious crimes and ensure that the perpetrators of those crimes be brought to justice. The NGO has since then worked tirelessly to make that vision a reality.

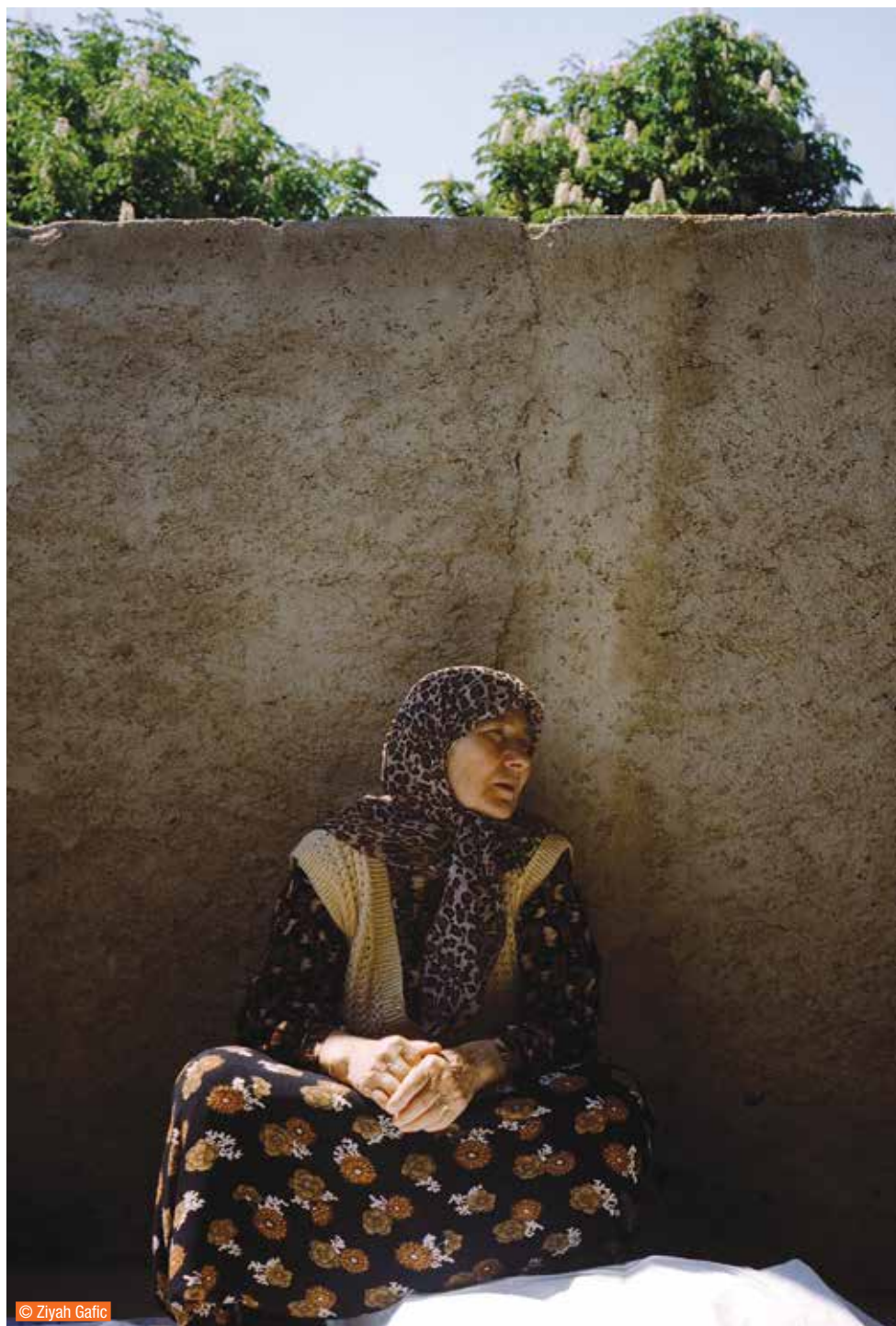
Its groundbreaking legal programmes combine investigative work, preparation of complaints on behalf of victims and denunciation of individuals or companies suspected of serious crimes. Numerous investigations have been conducted and cases opened against suspects from around the world. Swiss companies suspected of complicity in war crimes have also been targeted.

TRIAL has focused its legal action on two main fronts. On the one hand, it supports victims through a variety of legal strategies in several countries and through international bodies. On the other, it fights impunity in order to prosecute the perpetrators of serious human rights violations, thanks to the principle of universal jurisdiction. Today, these choices are reflected clearly in the programmes conducted by the NGO.

In the first focus area, TRIAL has developed comprehensive legal assistance programmes in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Burundi, Nepal and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Legal proceedings brought on behalf of victims and local capacity building are the main components of these programmes. The NGO also provides targeted assistance to victims in other countries such as Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco, Libya and Russia.

In the second focus area, TRIAL has, for several years, been increasing its activities in the field of criminal law. The NGO's fight against impunity is largely concentrated in Switzerland, although activities are also carried out in other European countries. Thorough investigations and denunciations are carried out by the criminal law specialists in charge of the programme.

TRIAL can pride itself on having obtained concrete results from its legal actions, in just over a decade. In the past year, **11 new cases** were submitted to international bodies. By the end of 2014, a total of **146 cases**, concerning **360 victims**, were brought before **5 international bodies**, with more than **50 cases already settled in favour of the victims**. TRIAL's increasing work with victims also takes place directly before the courts of the countries concerned, with the NGO filing or supporting **120 cases** internally last year.





# BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

From 1992 to 1995, Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) was beset by a raging ethnic conflict. Over three years of war, countless civilians were arbitrarily executed, concentration camps were set up and torture was systematically perpetrated. The conflict claimed around 100,000 lives, and more than 30,000 persons were forcefully disappeared. In the aftermath of the war, the country failed to deal with its massive record of human rights violations. TRIAL has worked in BiH since 2008 to help wartime victims of enforced disappearance, torture, arbitrary execution and sexual violence obtain justice. In a country where impunity generally prevails, the NGO provides them with free legal assistance and helps them voice their claims through strategic litigation before domestic authorities and international human rights bodies.

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## REFUSING TO REMAIN SILENT

Breaking the wall of silence is crucial to prevent crimes such as those committed during the war from happening again in the future. While BiH authorities tend to marginalize wartime victims, invoking the need to turn the page, TRIAL fights to maintain the issue of violations on the public agenda.

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**"If it wasn't for TRIAL's help, we would never have brought our case before an international tribunal and we would have continued to live with this unbearable feeling of anger. Now at least, we know that we did everything we could"** Edin Ramulic, brother of a victim of enforced disappearance

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## FIGHTING AGAINST ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCE

This year, TRIAL won five cases of enforced disappearance before the UN Human Rights Committee (HRC). 16 victims obtained justice along with their relatives, who suffered for years from the climate of impunity surrounding the disappearance of their loved ones. TRIAL is still monitoring the process closely, to guarantee that BiH authorities comply with the recommendations of the HRC.

## SHEDDING LIGHT ON SEXUAL VIOLENCE

TRIAL's fight against wartime sexual violence has gained momentum this year. The NGO provided legal assistance to 28 victims and helped trigger the criminal prosecution of seven perpetrators. One of them has already been convicted and the others are currently being tried before the Court of BiH. In 2014, TRIAL also lodged the first two complaints ever on behalf of victims of sexual violence before the Constitutional Court of BiH.

## ADVOCATING FOR JUSTICE

International advocacy is central to raising awareness and putting pressure on governments. This year, TRIAL's reports on the best ways to address wartime violations in BiH did not go unheeded. UN Committees and Special Rapporteurs took up many of the NGO's recommendations, which can now be used as powerful advocacy tools in the field.

## TRAINING FUTURE GENERATIONS OF ADVOCATES

In 2014, TRIAL successfully completed the training of 10 NGO lawyers on the use of international human rights standards in protecting victims of sexual violence in BiH. For the first time, TRIAL also gave presentations on these issues to university students.



**MR. JANVIER BIGIRIMANA,  
LAWYER AND PARTICIPANT  
TO TRIAL TRAINING IN 2014**

© Patrick Lopreno

# BURUNDI

Since its independence, Burundi has been the scene of violent ethnic clashes between Hutus and Tutsis, which cost the lives of some 300,000 civilians between 1993 and 2006. Although the civil war had officially ended, the 2010 elections fuelled a new cycle of violence. There was a new wave of serious human rights violations, including torture, sexual violence and summary executions. With the next elections set to take place in 2015, civil liberties and the security situation are once again under threat. TRIAL has been supporting the victims of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment in their pursuit of justice in Burundi since 2011. The NGO files complaints before international human rights bodies in order to bring the worst violations to light. To date, TRIAL has initiated 18 international procedures in favour of Burundian victims.

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## VICTORIES BEFORE INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL BODIES

In 2014, the NGO submitted new cases to the Committee Against Torture (CAT) and to the special procedures of the United Nations. For the first time, the NGO also referred four complaints to the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights.

In addition, this year, the CAT took its very first decisions regarding Burundi following the submission of complaints by TRIAL, condemning the country in two cases of torture against civilians. Today more than ever, the referral of cases to international and regional bodies is an effective tool for asserting the rights of victims of serious violations in Burundi.

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**"I remember the blows raining down on me. The lashes of hosepipe seem to cut my bloodied body in two. The screams emerging from my throat annoy my torturers. One of the men in charge orders that I be given "the bread". The torturers force my mouth open and shove a large dirty stone in there to stifle my cries. And then, another strike sends electric shocks throughout my body. What happened next is unspeakable"**

Déogratias Niyonzima, torture victim whose case was judged favourably by the CAT this year

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## TRAINING AND ADVOCACY: A WINNING COMBINATION

As the culmination of training given to Burundian human rights defenders in 2012-2013 in Bujumbura, TRIAL received seven of the nine participants in Geneva in the autumn of 2014. Their visit was an opportunity for the voice of Burundian civil society to be heard by the CAT, which was examining abuses in Burundi in its 53rd session. Thanks to their contributions and a report submitted by TRIAL, the Committee concluded that it was necessary to intensify the fight against impunity in Burundi and adopted some important recommendations to that effect.

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**"In order to fight, there must be knowledge. That is why TRIAL's training and our attendance at the CAT's session were so important. Our capacity came out strengthened and our commitment heightened. The train is in motion and our fight against human rights violations will be relentless"** A Burundian human rights defender and training participant

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© Anne Ackermann

# DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

The 1994 genocide in Rwanda had tragic repercussions in the two Congolese provinces of South Kivu and North Kivu, which have become the epicentre of a conflict that has set DRC ablaze. Those living in Kivu are the main victims of this conflict, in which human rights violations – perpetrated by both armed groups and the national security forces – run into the tens of thousands. In a country where the judicial system is all too often dysfunctional, widespread impunity is hindering the peace process. In 2014, TRIAL launched a new programme to combat impunity in DRC. The NGO aims to guarantee better access to justice to victims in these provinces and to boost the capacity of local actors.

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## A PRESENCE ON THE GROUND

During 2014, TRIAL laid the organizational foundations of this new programme. Registering the NGO with the national authorities was the first step in a long process. Next, the recruitment of a local team and the opening of an office in Bukavu made possible TRIAL's presence in DRC. The NGO is now ready to launch the operational phase of the programme in 2015.

## AN INDISPENSABLE NETWORK

The TRIAL programme in DRC is a first in the NGO's history. Indeed, it is the first time that it works in a country that is still in conflict. Fighting against impunity in a region where tensions are running high has serious security implications. TRIAL has addressed this question head-on, surrounding itself with organizations that are experts in security, building a network of trusted partners and closely monitoring the evolution of the security context. By taking these measures, the NGO has ensured the smooth running of its programme to assist Congolese victims.

## TRAINING IN 2015

In 2015, eight lawyers from Bukavu will undergo training in bringing cases before the United Nations Human Rights Committee and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights. This one-year course by TRIAL will give them the necessary tools to defend victims of serious crimes before these regional and international human rights bodies. During 2014, TRIAL carried out the process of selecting the participants and developed tailored teaching materials.

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**"The victims of serious violations in DRC are often rejected by the national courts. We want to help them pursue their quest for justice by showing them all the options available at the regional or international level"**

Sylvestre Bisimwa, lawyer registered with the Bukavu bar and the International Criminal Court, participant to TRIAL training

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# NEPAL

Between 1996 and 2006, the civil war between the Government of Nepal and a Maoist insurgency left over 13,000 people dead and more than 1,300 missing. Available data indicates that 2,500 acts of torture and other forms of persecution were perpetrated. More than eight years after the end of the conflict, not one single perpetrator has been brought to justice in a court of law. TRIAL has been active in Nepal since 2009 to provide justice and redress to conflict-era victims. To date, TRIAL has provided free legal assistance to over 100 individuals and submitted 14 complaints representing 34 victims before the UN. The NGO has, in addition, submitted over 10 reports to UN human rights bodies and conducted a number of local capacity building programmes benefitting several dozen Nepalese lawyers and other relevant civil society actors.

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## TACKLING THE LEGACY OF ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCE

This year TRIAL won its first three cases before the UN Human Rights Committee (HRC) on behalf of wartime victims of enforced disappearance in Nepal. The UN firmly condemned the Nepalese government for the enforced disappearances of Tej Raj Bhandari, Gyanendra Tripathi and Jit Man Basnet; the Committee also urged Nepal to punish the culprits and provide reparations to the families. These decisions represent a crucial step in the fight against the civil war legacy of human rights violations in Nepal.

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**“In this long wait for justice, we will not step back without knowing the truth”** Ram Bhandari, son of Tej Raj Bhandari

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## ADVOCATING FOR AN EFFECTIVE TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE PROCESS

In April 2014, the parliament passed a deeply flawed *Truth and Reconciliation Commission Act*. Violating basic tenets of human rights law, this Act raises great concerns, as it will contribute to further entrench impunity in Nepal. Following a report issued by TRIAL in July, five UN human rights bodies issued a public statement denouncing the Act and calling for its amendment. As Nepalese transitional justice mechanisms are not yet in place, TRIAL will continue to monitor this issue.

## FIGHTING AGAINST SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Sexual violence still represents a serious issue in Nepal. More than one hundred cases of conflict-era sexual abuse have been reported, but the reality is likely much worse, given the significant taboo and underreporting surrounding this crime. To fight this scourge, TRIAL submitted in June 2014 its first case of conflict-related sexual violence to the HRC. The case concerns the repeated abuses inflicted on a 14-year-old indigenous girl, arrested by members of the Royal Nepalese Army and of the Armed Police Forces.

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**“The torture and ill-treatment the police and the Nepal Army inflicted upon me were so cruel and degrading that my backbone is forever damaged. Today, these sad memories often come back to my mind and still make me feel very humiliated”**  
Anonymous Nepalese victim

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© UN photo / Staton Winter



# ON OTHER FRONTS

While TRIAL has established in-depth legal programmes in four countries, it also works in several other regions of the world to advance justice. In 2014, with the support of local NGOs, the organization defended victims of serious violations in countries where crime and impunity all too often go hand in hand. By defending their cases before national courts or referring them to international bodies, TRIAL fights to curb the impunity for which those victims pay the price.

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## ALGERIA

Twenty years after the “dirty war” in Algeria, too many families of victims of the conflict are still waiting for justice to be served. With more than 19 cases brought before UN bodies to date, TRIAL is actively engaged in the fight against impunity in the country. In 2014, TRIAL obtained UN condemnation of Algeria in five new cases of enforced disappearances and one case of torture. In addition, prompted by the authorities’ inaction, TRIAL referred cases to the Algerian national courts and urged a number of UN committees to take concrete action to follow up on the 18 condemnations of Algeria already pronounced.

## LIBYA

Many opponents “disappeared” or perished in Libyan prisons under the yoke of Colonel Gaddafi. In 2014, the United Nations made a landmark decision, condemning Libya for the enforced disappearance of Jaballa Hamed Matar and Izzat Yousef Al-Maqrif, two high-ranking political opponents whose fate has remained unknown since 1990. Four years after the complaint lodged by TRIAL on behalf of the families of the victims, this decision brings restorative recognition of their 24-year-long struggle to find their loved ones.

## MOROCCO

In Morocco, Sahrawi activists are being subjected to abuse by members of the Moroccan security forces, who have resorted to torture in an attempt to stifle the activists’ aspirations to independence. Following the dismantling of a Sahrawi protest camp in 2010, one Sahrawi victim was arbitrarily detained and tortured. TRIAL and a local organization referred the case to the United Nations Committee Against Torture, in order for the victim to finally obtain justice.

## RUSSIA

In Chechnya and the Northern Caucasus, the Russian authorities do not hesitate to resort to ill-treatment and arbitrary detentions. TRIAL and a local NGO have supported a number of victims before the United Nations Human Rights Committee. The case concerns six men who were arrested by Russian security forces in Chechnya and Dagestan. Tortured into “confessing” their involvement in terrorist activities, they are serving long prison sentences. The case is pending before the United Nations.

## TUNISIA

The fall of the Ben Ali regime did not put an end to the recurrent practice of torture in Tunisia. This year, TRIAL and ACAT-France continued to support Tunisian lawyers defending torture victims. Ten cases are currently pending before the national courts. Several of the victims who have dared to file complaints have been harassed and threatened. In light of the obstacles created by the authorities, a new case has been submitted to the United Nations Committee Against Torture. Others may follow.



**PHILIP GRANT,  
INTERVIEWED BY THE PRESS IN FRONT  
OF THE GENEVA COURTHOUSE DURING  
ERWIN SPERISEN'S 1<sup>ST</sup> INSTANCE TRIAL**

# FIGHT AGAINST IMPUNITY

The perpetrators of international crimes often exploit national boundaries to evade justice. Some corporations do the same, becoming complicit in serious violations in the process. Since the launch of its programme called Fight Against Impunity in 2011, TRIAL has been tackling the impunity of individuals and companies in Switzerland and neighbouring countries. The NGO denounces those suspected of having committed war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide or acts of torture in other parts of the world to Swiss and foreign jurisdictions. By doing so, TRIAL is contributing to the fight against impunity worldwide.

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## UNIVERSAL JURISDICTION, A CORNERSTONE PRINCIPLE

Genocide, crimes against humanity, torture and war crimes are among the most serious human rights violations. These crimes affect their victims, of course, but also the international community as a whole. The principle of universal jurisdiction allows national authorities to contribute to greater global justice by prosecuting these crimes, regardless of where they were committed and the nationality of the perpetrators or victims.

Universal jurisdiction is enshrined in Swiss law and represents a cornerstone of TRIAL's fight against impunity. By filing criminal charges, the NGO encourages the authorities to prosecute international criminals present in Switzerland and elsewhere in Europe. The authorities investigate the suspects, and arrest them if they deem the evidence sufficiently strong. Judicial proceedings ensue, potentially leading to a trial and a conviction.

## LARGE-SCALE PROJECTS

Within the framework of its programme Fight Against Impunity, TRIAL is working on a number of crimes under international law committed in Latin America, the Middle East, the Great Lakes region of Africa, and the Balkans. To date, 17 cases have been lodged by the NGO before the Swiss authorities, against individuals and corporations suspected of having perpetrated crimes under international law. In 2014, several new investigations were initiated that could result in further complaints.

## THE ERWIN SPERISEN CASE: A GLIMMER IN THE DARKNESS

In 2009, TRIAL filed a criminal complaint against Erwin Sperisen before the Swiss authorities. The former Guatemalan national police chief, who was residing in Switzerland at the time, was suspected of having committed serious violations in Guatemala several years earlier.

Since then, a lot has been accomplished for justice to be served, largely thanks to the work of TRIAL and a coalition of partner NGOs. The case reached a major turning point in May 2014 when Erwin Sperisen's trial began in Geneva. In June 2014, the Criminal Court delivered its verdict, sentencing Erwin Sperisen to life imprisonment for seven killings committed in 2006 in Guatemala, during a police raid to regain control of El Pavón prison.

The Sperisen case is not yet over, however, as the accused's lawyers have appealed the sentence. A second trial is taking place in 2015. Nonetheless, this first ruling marks an important milestone in the fight against impunity; it has sent a very strong message to the perpetrators of atrocities, reminding them that they are not immune from justice, even if their crimes were committed thousands of miles away.

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**"It is the fight against impunity and for human dignity that has gained most from the verdict in first instance issued in the Erwin Sperisen case"**  
Philip Grant, Director of TRIAL

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## **KHALED NEZZAR CASE : A NEW COMPLAINT LODGED**

In 2011, the Swiss Federal Prosecutor's Office launched an investigation into former Algerian Defense Minister Khaled Nezzar, suspected of having committed war crimes during the armed conflict that tore Algeria apart in the 1990s. Since lodging the initial denunciation, TRIAL has worked tirelessly to ensure that justice be done. The filing of a new criminal complaint by a victim in May 2014 now takes the number of torture claims lodged against Nezzar to four. Over the year, numerous witnesses were also heard. The investigation is ongoing.

## **CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITY IN THE SPOTLIGHT**

Some companies with operations abroad aim to increase their revenue by taking advantage of the climate of impunity that prevails in some regions of the world. TRIAL is closely following the hot button issue of corporate crime and how to tackle it. Initial results are encouraging. Since the Argor-Heraeus SA case, brought by TRIAL and its partners in 2013, the NGO has been approached multiple times to offer its expertise on this topical problem.



# TRIAL WATCH

Trial Watch is the only online database of people prosecuted for international crimes all over the world. Accessible from TRIAL's website, it offers easy and convenient access to invaluable information on prosecutions for genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, and torture. Every criminal profile contains, amongst other information, a brief description of the alleged crime(s) and a summary of the legal proceedings. Useful links are also provided, such as indictments and judgments, NGO reports and bibliographies. Launched by TRIAL in 2004, Trial Watch has become a reference tool for many journalists, students and the general public, with more than 8.5 million views since its creation.

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## SIGNIFICANT GROWTH

This year, the Trial Watch team was composed of around 40 volunteers, a coordinator and two interns from the Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights.

Thanks to the team and the dedication of volunteers from all over world, the database grows every year. In 2014, Trial Watch counted over 60,000 more visits than in 2013.

## KEY FIGURES

### **Trial Watch offers access to :**

- › More than 1,200 profiles
- › 114 cases involving universal jurisdiction
- › 80 different geographical contexts where breaches of international law have taken place
- › More than 75 jurisdictions where cases have gone to trial

### **In 2014:**

- › 163 new profiles published
- › 337 profiles translated into English, French, Spanish and German
- › 132 profiles updated







# OUTREACH AND ADVOCACY

Although the law is a powerful tool in the fight against impunity, it cannot be effective without a favourable legislative framework. Yet, laws and conventions are rarely adopted without resistance, and pressure must be brought to bear to change mentalities and practices.

In parallel with its legal programmes, TRIAL carries out advocacy strategies at the local and international levels. Whether to the United Nations, the Council of Europe, experts, ambassadors, parliamentarians, public prosecutors or students, TRIAL defends the rights of victims, draws attention to the urgent need for justice, and campaigns for authorities to take decisive action against impunity.

The advocacy work undertaken by TRIAL takes several forms: the publication of reports to influence the opinions of experts and international bodies, the writing of articles to clarify topical issues, participation in numerous conferences to raise public awareness, running courses, and providing training to build the capacity of the legal practitioners of tomorrow.

Without this mobilization of public opinion, the organization's groundbreaking legal work would not bear fruit.

# OUTREACH

TRIAL strives to give victims a voice and to remind people of the importance of fighting impunity. Hence, awareness-raising, mobilization and communication are at the heart of TRIAL's work. Day after day, the NGO shines a light on the worst violations and demonstrates how justice can be served for the victims of those crimes.

To do that, TRIAL produces regular, fact-oriented and user-friendly communication tools about its programmes. In a little over a decade, the NGO has built up a loyal audience, which has expanded to the four corners of the globe, through different platforms. Opinion leaders, partners, beneficiaries, civil society, journalists and legal practitioners follow and share TRIAL's work with growing interest. This evolution is well reflected in the constantly rising engagement figures.

In 2014, the NGO made a concerted effort to strengthen its digital presence and media relations, with growing success.

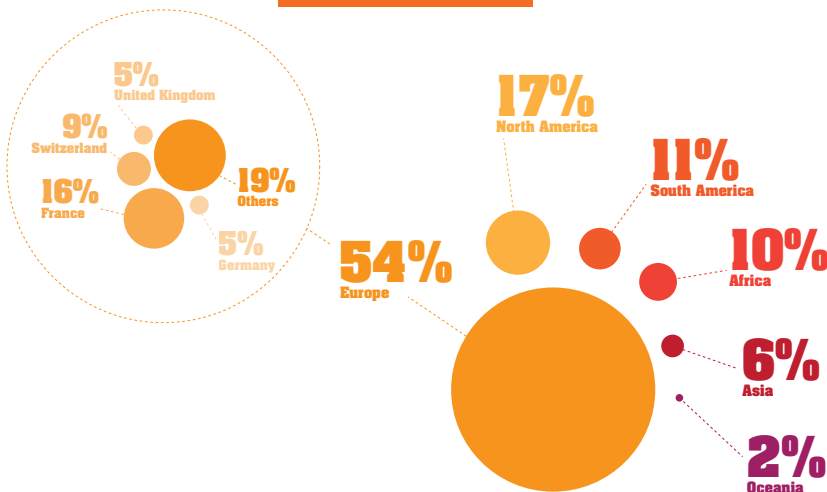
## TRIAL ONLINE

TRIAL's website is the organization's cornerstone communication platform, attracting a large audience. Having seen visits to its website increase dramatically in 2014, the NGO is planning a complete overhaul of the site in 2015, to provide visitors with a more ergonomic platform and more dynamic content.

## MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Launched in January 2014, TRIAL's e-newsletter quickly attracted a huge readership that eagerly awaits the next issue and appreciates its content. Sent each month in French and English to more than 3,200 subscribers, the newsletter provides a succinct overview of the organization's main achievements.

## WHO ARE THE VISITORS TO THE WEBSITE ?

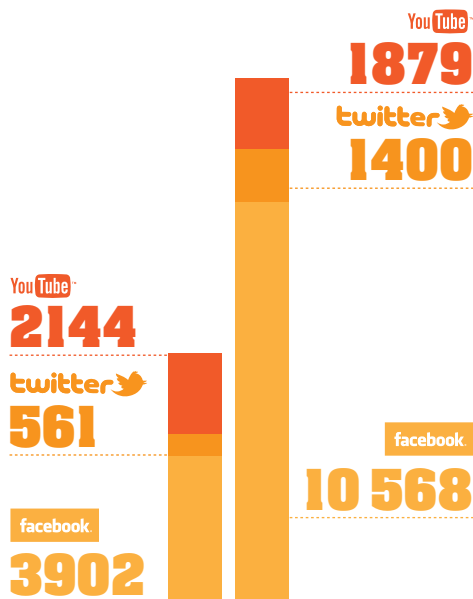




## TRIAL IN SOCIAL MEDIA

In the space of just a few years, social media has become a pivotal communication tool for NGOs. By conveying messages to very large numbers of people in record time, social media have an unprecedented mobilization capacity.

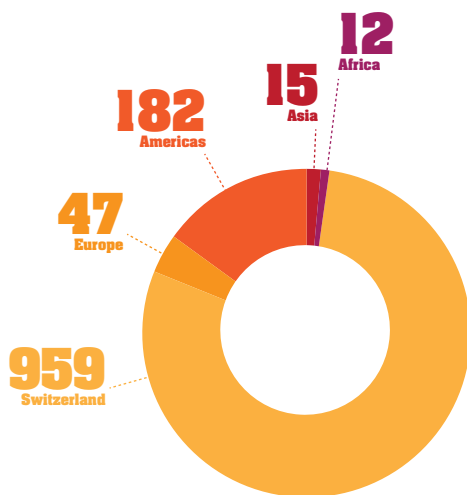
TRIAL's presence on social media has continually risen and now rallies a large audience. Indeed, in 2014, its number of followers on platforms like Twitter and Facebook doubled.



## TRIAL IN THE MEDIA

Throughout the world, the media plays an information-spreading role that is key to ensure respect for the rule of law. Like human rights defenders, journalists are a vital mouthpiece for civil society. They are also often the first witnesses – and sometimes victims – of human rights violations.

Mindful of the important role of the fourth estate, TRIAL makes sure to share the fruits of its work with a wide range of media outlets. This media-oriented approach has successfully resulted in extensive media coverage. Whether the story is the prosecution of an alleged criminal or the victory of a victim before jurisdictions, the fights waged by TRIAL against impunity regularly feature in articles in the local and international press. In 2014, the work of the organization was mentioned in over 1,000 media clippings.



# EVENTS AND PUBLICATIONS

TRIAL fosters exchanges with its audiences and partners; publications, conferences, symposia and training workshops are all opportunities to put this into practice. During 2014, TRIAL shared its expertise during 36 events, on topics such as assistance to victims, torture, combating impunity, enforced disappearances and sexual violence. The organization's legal advisers also contributed to around ten publications addressing human rights and international law, corporate responsibility, the fight against impunity and the prosecution of war criminals.

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## SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Sexual violence has been and continues to be a common occurrence in many conflict situations. TRIAL has been working for several years alongside victims of sexual crimes in a number of countries. In 2014, the NGO shone a spotlight on this issue. TRIAL took an active part in drafting the *International Protocol on the documentation and investigation of sexual violence in conflict*, and spoke on the subject at 14 conferences, from Geneva to Sarajevo and from Washington to London. The legal status of these victims, difficulties linked to obtaining reliable data regarding numbers of victims, and the social stigmatization that they face were among the issues addressed.

## ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES

What makes the crime of enforced disappearance so terrible is not only that it affects the integrity of the disappeared, but also that it leaves his or her relatives hanging onto the hope of seeing their loved one again, sometimes for decades. TRIAL supports the families of numerous disappeared persons in their pursuit of the truth. The NGO took action in 2014 to raise awareness on the importance of reparation and the need to prevent such crimes. TRIAL's actions mainly concerned the situation of migrants in Central America trying to make their way to the US border through Mexico.

## TORTURE

Many victims continue to suffer severe after-effects, even years after the abuses were inflicted. TRIAL fights on behalf of victims of torture in different countries, and it was their voices that the organization took to conferences in Bosnia, Burundi and Nepal during the year.

## VICTIMS' RIGHTS AND ACCESS TO JUSTICE

Access to justice often remains a stumbling block for many victims of serious violations. In 2014, TRIAL shared its expertise in Canada, Belgium, the UK and Switzerland on different ways of making the law work for the benefit of victims, such as submission of complaints to international bodies, criminal proceedings or reparation by means of granting compensation to victims.

## CORPORATE CRIME

The profile of war criminals has diversified over time. Nowadays, some companies, in their quest for ever-greater profits, fuel the economy of war, even becoming accomplices of war crimes. TRIAL reports these human rights violations before prosecuting authorities, but also denounces them in public forums. TRIAL addressed the fight against corruption, the criminal liability of economic players, and the need for strict legislative frameworks in various debates during 2014.

# ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCES

TRIAL continued to grow in 2014, with a much larger operating budget and a strengthened team. This organizational growth naturally led to an increase in its work in favour of victims. Although not all projects could be fully covered from the allocated budget, prudent financial management made it possible to keep the deficit for the 2014 financial year within reasonable proportions. TRIAL remains confident about its future financial stability and considers it a privilege that its growing donor base continues to support the objectives set and the activities carried out.

The fact that the organization is able to assist a growing number of victims in their pursuit for justice, truth and reparation is thanks to the precious support of its donors, without whom this long fight against impunity would not be possible. These contributions allow the NGO to realize its vision and translate into action its desire for justice. TRIAL would like to warmly thank every one of its donors for their loyalty, trust and contribution to enhancing national and international justice.

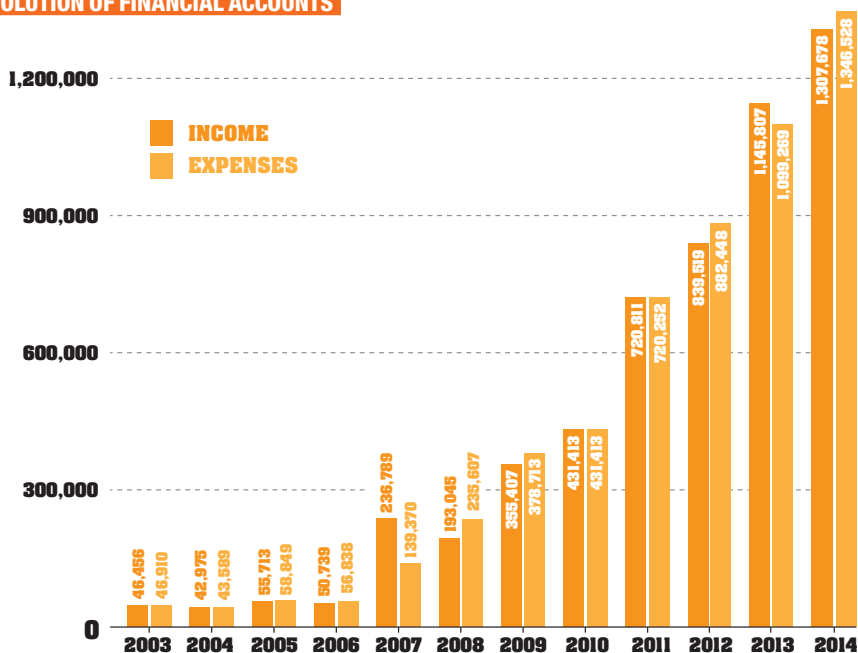
It is also thanks to its strong and determined team, which invests its skill and passion in the fight against impunity, that TRIAL is building such a positive reputation. We wish to personally thank all the staff, interns, volunteers and partners for their work and their unwavering commitment.

# FINANCES 2014

## ACCOUNT SHEETS

	INCOME	EXPENSES	RESULTS
ADVOCACY CENTER	663,635	747,731	- 84,096
FIGHT AGAINST IMPUNITY	203,708	194,313	9,395
TRIAL WATCH	0	5,517	- 5,517
OUTREACH	118,299	118,299	0
ADMINISTRATION	322,037	280,669	41,368
FINANCIAL RESULTS	1,307,678	1,346,528	- 38,850

## EVOLUTION OF FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS



The accounts presented in this report are in Swiss francs and are provisional. The revised accounts will be available on request once approved by the 2015 General Assembly.

# FUNDING

## CANTONS AND MUNICIPALITIES

- › The City of Carouge
- › The City of Geneva
- › The City of Lausanne
- › The Municipality of Vevey
- › The Republic and Canton of Geneva

## FOUNDATIONS

- › Antenna Technologies Foundation
- › MISEREOR Foundation
- › Nuhanovic Foundation
- › OAK Foundation
- › Open Society Foundations
- › Pro Victimis Foundation
- › Sigrid Rausing Trust

## INTERNATIONAL AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

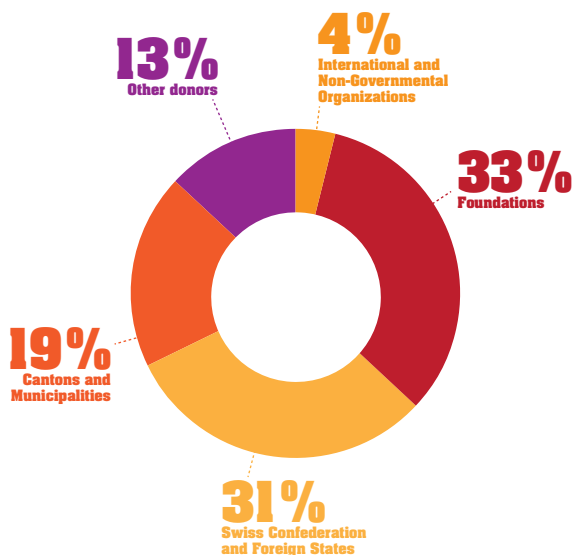
- › Amnesty International, Swiss Section
- › The UN Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture (UNVFT)

## OTHER DONORS

- › Loterie Romande
- › Private donors
- › Members

## SWISS CONFEDERATION AND FOREIGN STATES

- › Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO),  
British Government
- › Swiss Embassy in Sarajevo
- › Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA)



# THE TEAM

All the persons listed below worked for TRIAL during all or part of 2014.

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## THE COMMITTEE

- Giorgio MALINVERNI, President
- Sacha MEUTER, Vice President
- Jean-Jacques MARTIN, Vice President
- Pancho GONZALEZ, Treasurer
- Jean-René OETTLI, Secretary
- Daniel BOLOMEY
- Benoît CHAPPUIS
- Sandrine GIROUD-ROTH
- Héloïse RORDORF
- Richard GREINER

## THE TEAM

### DIRECTOR

- Philip GRANT, Director

### MANAGEMENT

- Alexandra BRUTSCH, Administrator
- Emanuela MELIS, Administrator
- Marie-Romaine MICHELET, Administrative Assistant
- Patrick REY, Administrative Assistant

### EXTERNAL RELATIONS

- Solange BAGUTTI, Junior Fundraiser
- Chloé BITTON, Head of Communications
- Sébastien GILLIOZ, Communications Consultant
- Camille JOSEPH, Head of Development
- Benjamin KOHLI, Fundraiser and HR Officer
- Vincent PLOTON, Development and Fundraising Consultant
- Aileen SCHWASS, Junior Communications Officer

### ADVOCACY CENTER

- Ankit ADHIKARI, Administrative Assistant (Nepal)
- Kopila ADHIKARI, Human Rights Coordinator (Nepal)
- Frida CASTILLO, Legal Adviser
- Jasminka CERIC-FILIPOVIC, Finance and Administration Officer (Bosnia-Herzegovina)
- Gabriella CITRONI, Senior Legal Adviser
- Adisa FISIC, Public Relations Assistant (Bosnia-Herzegovina)
- Luca GERVASONI, Legal Adviser
- Adrijana HANUSIC, Legal Adviser (Bosnia-Herzegovina)

- Patient IRAGUHA, Local Project Manager (Democratic Republic of the Congo)
- Selma KORJENIC, Sexual Violence Project Coordinator (Bosnia-Herzegovina)
- Azra KUČI, Legal Adviser (Bosnia-Herzegovina)
- Lejla MAMUT, Human Rights Coordinator (Bosnia-Herzegovina)
- Innocent MUSAFIRI, Finance and Administration Officer (Democratic Republic of the Congo)
- Guy MUSHIATA, Human Rights Coordinator (Democratic Republic of the Congo)
- Marcellin MUZIRIGERA, Driver (Democratic Republic of the Congo)
- Daniele PERISSI, Legal Adviser (Democratic Republic of the Congo and Nepal)
- Armela RAMIC, Legal Adviser (Bosnia-Herzegovina)
- Om Prakash SEN THAKURI, Human Rights Officer (Nepal)
- Nirajan THAPALIYA, Human Rights Adviser (Nepal)
- Danaé VAN DER STRATEN PONTHOZ, Legal Consultant
- Orlane VARESANO, Legal Adviser (Burundi)
- Marie-Lou VELLON, Junior Legal Adviser (Burundi)
- Elsa ZIGIC, Finance and Administration Officer (Bosnia-Herzegovina)

### FIGHT AGAINST IMPUNITY

- Bénédict DE MOERLOOSE, Legal Adviser
- Julie MEYLAN, Junior Legal Adviser
- Valérie PAULET, Legal Adviser
- Jonas REY, Assigned to the Civil Service

### INTERNS

- Pamela CAPIZZI
- Rachel CHISHOLM
- Joëlle COUTAMA
- Michael EDWARDS
- Adriane FELDMANN
- Karin FOCKENS
- Céline MARTENET
- Léonard MICHELI
- Berivan OZER
- Helena RODRIGUEZ BRONCHU CARCELLER

## TRIAL WATCH

Iain GAW, Coordinator

Laura ALLEN, Cassandre AMAH, Rocio ARREDONDO,  
Francesca ASSELLE, Leoni AYOUB, Jonas BAUMANN,  
Lena BEKCEK, Jacques BELLEZIT, Simon BIANCHI,  
Alexandra BORGEAUD, Madeline BOTTICELLO,  
Emma BRANDON, Alexandra BÜCHLER, Kaspar BÜNGER,  
Berta CASAS ROCHEL, Dieudonné DAGBETO,  
Bárbara DE LA GARZA, Barnabas DENES, Elise FILO,  
Coralie FREMION, Marie-Laure GAMBINO,  
Javier GONZALEZ, Camille GOY, Tom GRANT,  
Jessica GRIMM, Julia GUERIN, Brigitte HAMADEY,  
Sabrina HETTRICH, Valeria HORVATH, Emma HUGHES,  
Delphine JAOUEN, Anna-Katharina JOHANNSEN,  
Marine JULLIER, Corinna KROMM, Anita KUNATH,  
Jovana KUZMANOVIC, Pauline LONCHAMPT, Marta LYS,  
Noémi MANCO, Inga MATTHES, Ryan McCCLURE,  
Andrés MERAZ, Samir PEKAZ, Sara PEÑA GALERA,  
Manuela PEQUEÑO, Sonia PEZIER, Giulia RAIMONDO,  
Nurenia REICHLING, Mathilde RIEDER, Lucy ROBERTSON,  
Andreina RODRIGUEZ, César ROJAS, Mathilde SAVINI,  
Miriam SERRANO, Clark SMITH, Lindsay STALLINGS,  
Jérémie SWINNEN, Agasha TABARO, Luiza TEIXEIRA,  
Hannah TIEFENGRABER, François TILLETTE DE MAUTORT,  
Jessica TROPEA, Stéphanie UJMA, Martina VRECKO,  
María del Pilar ZEGARRA

*TRIAL would not be able to achieve everything it does without the invaluable contributions of its many other committed and talented volunteers. We take this opportunity to warmly thank all those who have given us their time for translations, legal affairs and raising awareness on our projects among different audiences.*





# TRIAL

FIGHTS AGAINST IMPUNITY  
DEFENDS THE VICTIMS' INTERESTS  
RAISES AWARENESS AMONG THE AUTHORITIES  
AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC

[www.trial-ch.org](http://www.trial-ch.org)

@TrackImpunity

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