



**JUSTICE  
RAPID  
RESPONSE**

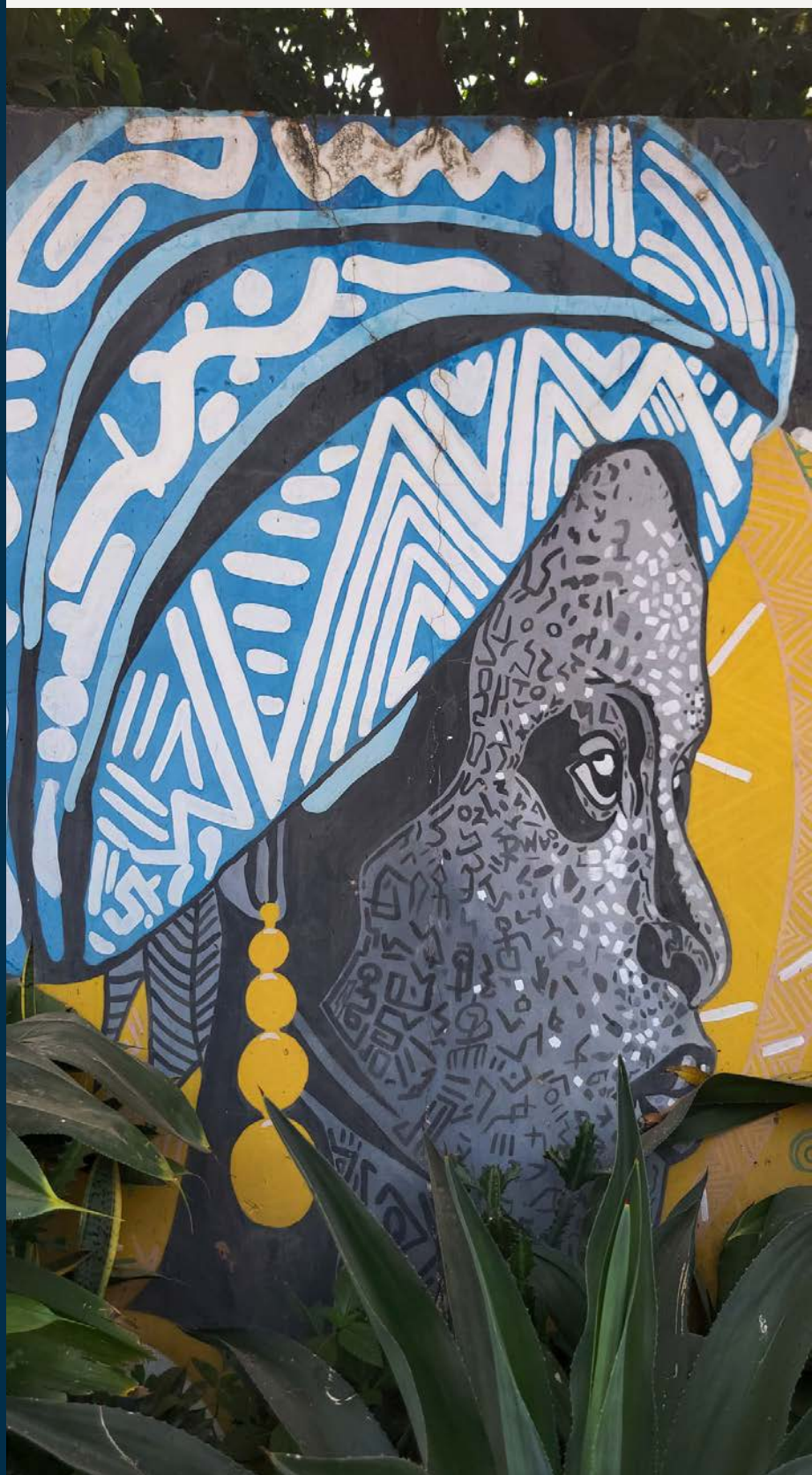
**ANNUAL REPORT 2024**

# **ACHIEVING INCLUSIVE JUSTICE WITH VICTIMS & SURVIVORS**



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Outside of the memory house in The Gambia. This initiative is part of the memorialization efforts led by ANEKED in The Gambia, whom JRR supports with highly technical expertise. Credits: JRR.

# AGAINST ADVERSITY, WE MUST REDOUBLE OUR EFFORTS

This Annual Report 2024 of Justice Rapid Response is presented at a time when the international justice and human rights system is facing unprecedented challenges. It is not only the International Criminal Court that is under attack, but also the very foundations of our international system, including the defence and protection of universally recognized human rights.

If successful, these attempts to dismantle the multilateral system will have direct and tangible consequences for all of us. This is because the key threats to humanity are global in nature and demand global solutions. We are not only speaking of accountability for international crimes and grave human rights violations, but also of the fight against climate change, future pandemics, and the governance of emerging technologies. In a word: our capacity to maintain peace and advance the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The good news is that this Annual Report 2024 illustrates the richness and resilience of the international justice and human rights system. Across the globe, there are countless justice and human rights initiatives—large and small, visible and discreet. These initiatives cannot easily be stopped, because they were born from human suffering and the pursuit of justice. Confronting adversity is part of their DNA; they will continue to adapt and innovate. At JRR, we are here to support them with the expertise provided by our roster of experts.

In these pages, you will read about civil society organizations that continue to find ways to support victims and survivors in their pursuit of justice; about domestic courts that are increasingly addressing international crimes and building innovative transitional justice mechanisms. We also highlight the work of international justice and human rights institutions that persist in uncovering violations and crimes in some of the world's most violent conflicts. JRR is proud to assist these actors by providing the technical expertise they require and by championing the rights of victims—regardless of origin, faith, gender, or age.

Looking ahead, as the multilateral system comes under increasing strain, we must stay the course and redouble our efforts to defend a world where all victims and survivors have access to justice.

Geneva, April 7th, 2025

Ambassador Christophe PAYOT  
*Chairperson of the Executive Board of Justice Rapid Response,  
Permanent Representative of Belgium in Geneva*

Samuel EMONET  
*JRR Executive Director*

# 2024:

## JRR'S 15-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Back in 2009, JRR was established as a means to fill a crucial gap in terms of expertise in justice and accountability processes. JRR's history quick-started with an expert deployment in the aftermath of the **Conakry Stadium massacre** in support of the UN Commission of Inquiry on Guinea. The rest is now history.

2024 also marks the second year of implementation of our [4-year strategy](#). This year, we doubled down on our efforts to **bolster our impact** by combining a responsive and proactive engagement with multiple justice actors in **Colombia, The Gambia, Myanmar and Ukraine**. JRR further continued its efforts to mainstream a **victim-centred, child and gender sensitive approach** throughout its work and developed an innovative project to be rolled-out in the coming year on **integrating technology in accountability work**.

This year, JRR also became a member of the **International Alliance on Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict**, an international coalition of actors dedicated to end conflict-related sexual violence through coordinated action. Becoming a member of the Alliance will create new opportunities for JRR to build new partnerships and foster synergies to promote the rights and access to justice of victims and survivors.

### STRATEGIC AIMS

1



Bolstering impact by combining a responsive and proactive engagement with multiple actors of justice in priority accountability situations.

2



Achieving a more inclusive and victim-centred justice.

3



Enabling a multidisciplinary approach that includes digital investigative expertise.

4



Achieving our strategic aims with our partners.

# OUR PROGRAMMES

**Justice Rapid Response** is the only global facility that provides rapidly deployable experts to investigate international crimes and serious human rights violations to enable a holistic, gender-sensitive, and inclusive approach to justice. For this, we established three programmes respectively supporting international, national and civil society justice actors to promote the rights and access to justice of victims and survivors :



## INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE PROGRAMME:

Supporting international & regional justice and human rights mechanisms to bridge expertise gaps and promote the inclusion of marginalized victims.



## NATIONAL JUSTICE PROGRAMME:

Supporting national jurisdictions in delivering gender-sensitive and victim-centered justice for international crimes and grave human rights violations through judicial and non-judicial initiatives.



## CIVIL SOCIETY PROGRAMME:

Supporting civil society organizations to power up the whole justice ecosystem and promote survivors' agency in justice processes

At JRR, we also take part in policy dialogues through various fora, including the Human Rights Council, to ensure that lessons learned from our expert deployments can be useful to the broader international justice and human rights community.

# ACHIEVING JUSTICE WITH OUR PARTNERS

To achieve our mission, we partner with the following organizations, among others. We thank them for their trust.



## UN WOMEN

JRR is proud to have developed a longstanding partnership with UN Women. Together, we are dedicated to supporting the international community's efforts to mainstream a gender lens in justice processes and keep fighting impunity for sexual and gender-based violence.



## MINISTRY OF JUSTICE OF THE GAMBIA

Since 2018, JRR enjoys a partnership with the Gambian Ministry of Justice that has enabled us to support the country's current transitional justice initiatives. This partnership will continue to guide our efforts in the country as The Gambia enters the next phase of its transitional justice journey.



## JURISDICCIÓN ESPECIAL PARA LA PAZ (JEP)

JRR enjoys a strategic partnership with the Jurisdicción Especial para la Paz (JEP) to continue supporting the ongoing restorative justice efforts and promoting the rights and access to justice for victims and survivors of the Colombian armed conflict.



## UKRAINE OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTOR GENERAL

JRR and the Office of the Prosecutor General of Ukraine consolidated their collaboration and efforts in promoting the rights and access to justice for victims and survivors of international crimes and gross human rights violations committed in Ukraine.



## OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS (OHCHR)

In 2024, we made progress in strengthening the coordination around our working procedures with OHCHR investigation bodies, country offices and regional offices to further facilitate the deployment of JRR experts, and promote the rights and access to justice of victims and survivors.

# 2024 AT A GLANCE

**750+**

Experts on  
the JRR Roster

**86**

New  
deployments

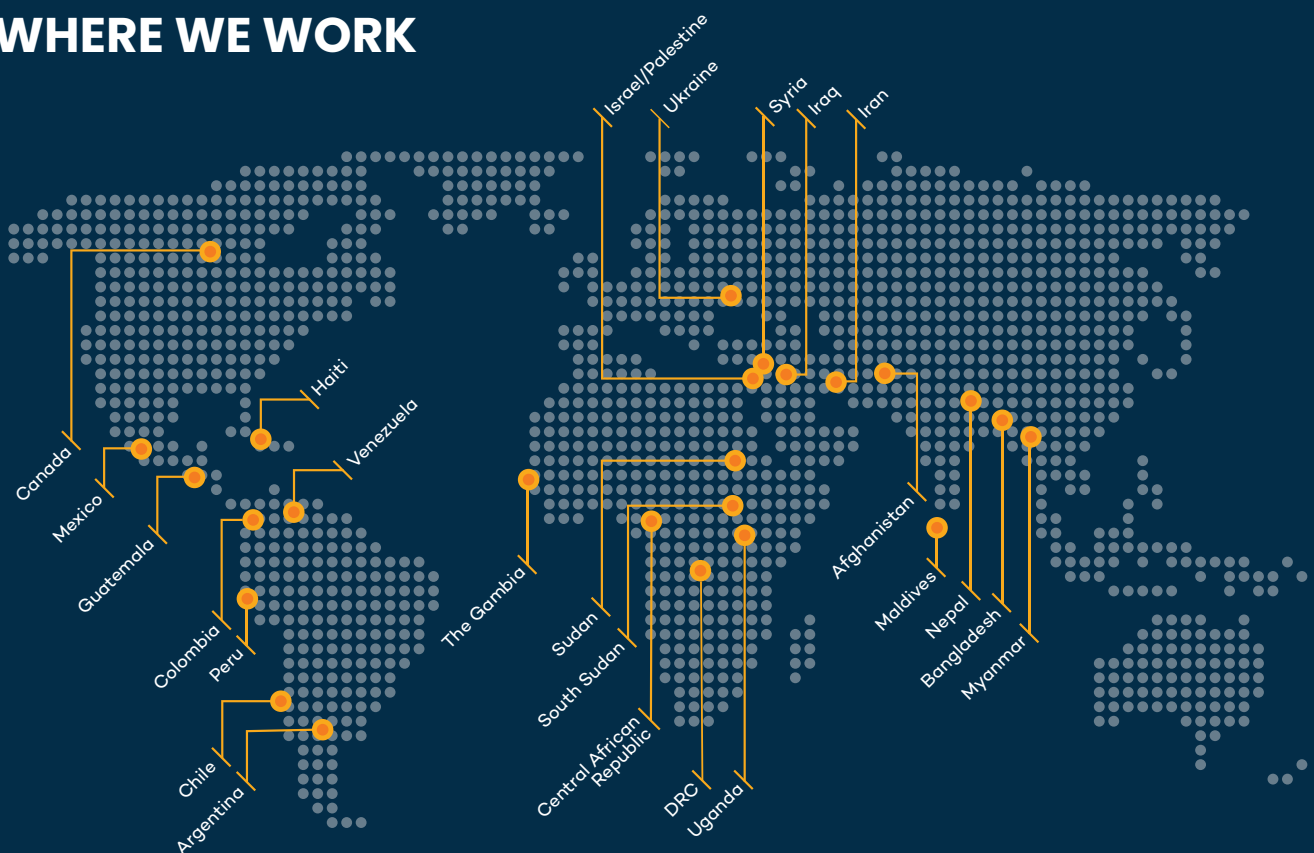
**17**

Deployments carried over  
from previous year

**103**

Deployments  
in total

## WHERE WE WORK



\*Based on data available for 2024

## DEPLOYMENTS PER PROGRAMME

**31**

International  
Justice Programme

**24**

National Justice  
Programme

**31**

Civil Society  
Programme



## RESPONDING RAPIDLY TO CHANGING CONTEXTS: THE CASE OF SYRIA



On December 8, the Assad regime collapsed after a swift advance of opposition groups. In the days that followed, Syrians crowded the regime's notorious detention facilities in a desperate search for their loved ones who were jailed or forcibly disappeared while reports of new mass graves were emerging daily.

As Syria embarks on a transitional justice process, JRR has already received several requests for expertise from its partners and will address them in an impartial fashion to ensure it promotes the rights and access to justice of all Syrian survivors.

As described by our civil society partner Free Syrian Lawyers Association (FSLA), after 12 years under the fierce repression of the Assad

regime, now is the time to support the new authorities and to guide **them in setting up as swiftly as possible efficient transitional justice mechanisms that would promote the rights and access to justice of all Syrian victims and survivors**. Only then could the Syrian people aspire to sustainable peace.

In 2024, together with UN Women, JRR supported the **Independent Institution on Missing Persons (IIMP)** in the Syrian Arab Republic, a body mandated by the UN General Assembly to determine the fate and whereabouts of missing persons and to support their families. JRR provided **gender, victims' participation and psychosocial expertise** to the IIMP, including to help develop its policies and methodologies.

JRR further deployed an **Inclusive Justice Expert** to the **International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism (IIIM)** for Syria to implement a **victim-centered approach** within the organization, and an **International Criminal Lawyer** to build the capacity of FSLA in relation to its documentation efforts.

In the past, JRR extensively supported the UN **Commission of Inquiry on Syria** and the IIIM with interpretation, forensic, gender and child rights expertise.

As this is a rapidly developing situation, JRR will ensure its experts may be deployed as swiftly as possible to address the needs of all justice actors to further accountability processes in Syria.

A child holding the Syrian revolution flag.  
Credit: Nllanjan Nag,  
Creative commons



“The JRR expert ensured that sexual and gender-based crimes were recognized as distinct violations under international law, integrating them into the broader legal framework of accountability. The expert integrated gender-sensitive methodologies, such as ensuring the inclusion of female investigators and interviewers, to create a safer environment for victims to share their experiences.”

*Husein Al-Mohaimeed, Programme Manager, Free Syrian Lawyers Association*



# ALLEGED WAR CRIME OF PILLAGE OF A UNESCO NATURAL RESERVE IN UKRAINE



In November 2024, in a groundbreaking development for environmental justice, the Ukrainian Office of the Prosecutor General (OPG) Specialized Environmental Prosecutor's Office (SEPO) **issued its first ever [notice of suspicion for a war crime](#)**. The SEPO issued the notice of suspicion against the de facto-Director of the Askania-Nova biosphere reserve, appointed by the Russian occupying power, for the alleged pillage of the reserve.

Askania-Nova, Ukraine's oldest nature reserve and Europe's largest steppe reserve, is part of UNESCO's international network of biosphere reserves and is safeguarded under the Hague Convention. According to the SEPO, since February 24, 2022, the reserve's territory has been under occupation by Russian forces, and as of March 2023, it has been under de facto control by the occupying authorities.

In July 2024, at the request of the SEPO, JRR

**deployed a Ukrainian speaking Open-Source Investigator** to provide advice and technical support to the team's prosecutors on the type of open-source information and evidence they can use for the Askania-Nova case and the ways to collect these with open-source tools. **Ensuring that the SEPO had access to this expertise was critical in the context of an investigation in which the investigative authorities did not have access to the territory in question.**

The technical support provided by the JRR Expert during their deployment, utilizing advanced OSINT techniques, was **instrumental in collecting the evidence required to link the crime of pillage to the alleged perpetrator and thus in the issuance of the notice of suspicion** by the SEPO and Kherson's Regional Prosecutor's Office against the Russian-appointed Director of the Askania-Nova Biosphere Reserve.



Crowned crane standing on one leg and cleaning its feathers.  
Askania Nova, Ukraine. Credits: Adobe Stock.

“ The total damage to the natural reserve amounts to over 22 million UAH. This case significantly benefitted from the OSINT expertise provided by the JRR Open-Source Investigations expert. We deeply appreciate their help and support. ”

**Maksym Popov,**  
*Ukraine's Office of the Prosecutor General*

# SUPPORTING CSOs TO ENGAGE WITH INTERNATIONAL MECHANISMS TO END GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE



In August 2024, a **core group of UN special procedures** issued a **joint statement** to draw the **Mexican Government's attention** to the **current situation of violence against women, girls, and adolescents in the state of Guerrero**, which points to the existence of a practice of **enforced disappearance of women and girls**.

This group includes the Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women and Girls, its Causes and Consequences; the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances; the Special Rapporteur on the Sale, Sexual Exploitation, and Sexual Abuse of Children; the Special Rapporteur on Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment; and the Working Group on Discrimination Against Women and Girls.

The response of the United Nations Special Procedures was prompted by a communication sent by IDHEAS Strategic Litigation in Human

Rights, the Mexican Forensic Anthropology Team (EMAF), and the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH), who, **with the technical support of justice rapid response (JRR)**, conducted a documentation mission in February 2023 on the disappearances of women and girls in the state of Guerrero, Mexico. This followed the presentation of a report which included a specific gender perspective titled «Disappearances of Women and Gender-Based Violence in Guerrero: The Overlooked Side of the War on Drugs» during the 2023 session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

The report shows that women and girls in Guerrero were often **victims of sexual and gender-based violence prior to their disappearances**, and this was not taken into account by the Mexican authorities to conduct their investigations. **The disappearance itself is also a form of gender-based violence since these women and girls were disappeared because of their gender.**

The joint statement of UN special procedures also highlights **the absence of a timely response from the authorities** in searching for and investigating reports of enforced disappearance of women and girls and the **near-total impunity** in which these events remain. This grave situation occurs within a broader context of gender-based violence against women and girls in the state of Guerrero and the alarming context of enforced disappearances, particularly of women and girls, in Mexico over the past three decades.

This result speaks to the credibility and the impact of CSOs involved in accountability efforts for international crimes and serious human rights violations.



Palais des Nations, Geneva. Credits: Adobe Stock.





Two indigenous women walking with a kid in Latin America. Credits: Adobe Stock.

## ENSURING THAT REPARATIONS PROGRAMMES SERVE THEIR PURPOSE



From the 1980s up until the 1990s, Peru was grappling with an internal armed conflict initiated by the Peruvian Communist Party Shining Path. Over these years, both the Shining Path and the Peruvian military committed acts of violence, serious human rights violations and atrocity crimes. In total, 70,000 people were killed during the conflict. In 2023, over 20,000 people were still missing.<sup>1</sup> During the same period, over 300,000 women, primarily rural and Indigenous, as well as 25,000 men, were forcibly sterilised as part of a systematic and generalised attack against rural and Indigenous men and women.<sup>2</sup>

In the aftermath, a transitional justice process in the form of a Truth and Reconciliation Commission (the Commission) was initiated, alongside accountability efforts underway by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and the Peruvian Constitutional Court.

After the publication of the final recommendations of the Commission in 2003, a reparations programme was put in place for victims and survivors with the aim of bringing reconciliation to the country and addressing deep socioeconomic disparities in Peru.<sup>3</sup>

In 2023, JRR was mandated by the *Comisión Multisectorial de Alto Nivel* (CMAN) to support with

1 Musuk Nolte and Dan Collyns, 2024. "Decades after the country's internal conflict, Peruvians lay murdered family members to rest – a photo essay". The Guardian. URL: <https://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/2024/jan/18/peru-shining-path-conflict-burials>.

2 OHCHR, 2024. "Peru: Fujimori government's forced sterilisation policy violated women's rights, UN committee says in landmark ruling." URL: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2024/10/peru-fujimori-governments-forced-sterilisation-policy-violated-womens-rights>.

3 [https://www.ictj.org/sites/default/files/ICTJ\\_Report\\_Peru\\_Reparations\\_2013.pdf](https://www.ictj.org/sites/default/files/ICTJ_Report_Peru_Reparations_2013.pdf)

the review and evaluation process of the reparations programme. This was to enable the Peruvian authorities to optimize their processes, ensure that **a true victim-centred approach** effectively guides its actions, and understand **the real effects of the reparations programme on victims' lives and their communities**. A **JRR Reparations Expert** was deployed to mentor the CMAN's team on how to develop **information-gathering techniques such as focus groups and interviews**.

JRR's expert deployment resulted in **enhanced capacities** for qualitative monitoring of CMAN's team, thanks to the organization of workshops and fields visits in the rural regions of Ayacucho and Huanuco to test **innovative information-gathering techniques** and **ensure that the particular context of rural communities are also considered in this revision process**. The qualitative monitoring scheme resulting from the interaction with the JRR Expert also addressed the issue of **meaningful participation of victims** in order to assess whether they are satisfied with the reparations they have received so far, allowing for the appropriate adjustments to the reparations programme to be made.



The expert's contributions have strengthened the capacities for qualitative monitoring of the teams that participated in the pilot. She has also helped to find solutions to improve the participation of victims in order to assess their satisfaction with the reparations they have received. ”

*Susana Contreras, Comisión Multisectorial de Alto Nivel*

## NEW EU SANCTIONS AGAINST NORTH KOREA OFFICIALS: A GROUND-BREAKING ACHIEVEMENT FOR A KOREAN CSO



In July 2024, the Council of the European Union imposed sanctions on North Korea's Minister of State Security, Ri Chang Dae, and the Onsong County Ministry of State Security Detention Centre in North Hamgyong Province.

The Seoul-based civil society organization (CSO) Korea Future played a key role in the Council's decision. **This is the first-ever**

**instance where a CSO led a legal submission resulting in the sanctioning of North Korean officials or entities.**

JRR was proud to contribute to **building Korea Future's capacity** over the past years and to **support the organization in the submission of a comprehensive dossier leading to the adoption of this new sanctions regime.**



Special meeting of the European Council.  
Credits: European Council (creative commons license).

JRR's experts worked with Korea Future to **strengthen its documentation methodologies** to meet international standards in relation to its accountability efforts, including **its ability to document, through a victim-centered approach, sexual and gender-based violence, sexual slavery, enforced disappearances, committed in the North Korean penal system.**

Promoting such an approach is essential to abide by the **do-no-harm principle** and to avoid retraumatizing victims and survivors.



# SUDAN'S CIVIL WAR:

## Securing a child & gender sensitive approach from the start



Responding to the human rights and humanitarian crisis caused by the ongoing armed conflict in the Sudan, the Human Rights Council established an independent international fact-finding mission for the Sudan (FFM) on 11 October 2023 to investigate and establish the facts, circumstances and root causes of all alleged human rights violations and violations of international humanitarian law committed by warring parties.

Soon after, JRR deployed four experts to support the FFM: one Gender Adviser & SGBV Investigator, one Child Rights & Gender Specialist, and two Arabic-English Interpreters/Translators. **Their swift deployment helped the FFM plan the gender-related aspects of its investigation and integrate gender-sensitive methodologies practically from the outset of the Mission.** It also helped the FFM **mainstream child rights considerations**

throughout its work and the investigation of violations affecting children.

Together, these experts have been crucial in **facilitating the FFM's engagement with victims and witnesses of gender-based violence and violations affecting children.** They have also enabled the FFM to report effectively on SGBV and violations affecting children by drafting dedicated sections on these thematics. This has resulted in **increased visibility of relevant violations by warring parties** such as rape and sexual slavery, child recruitment, killing and maiming of children, and attacks on schools and hospitals.

Thanks to JRR's two Interpreters/Translators, the FFM shared **an Arabic version of its report** soon after the English version became public, **enabling the Sudanese people to read the FFM's work in their native language.**



Fact-Finding Mission  
in Abeche, Chad, 5  
July 2024.  
Credits: Fact-Finding  
Mission for the Sudan.



"Ghost" Market in Mandalay, Myanmar. Credits: Adobe Stock.

## SEEKING JUSTICE IN MYANMAR BY UNDERSTANDING SURVIVORS' NEEDS



Myanmar is currently facing a multi-dimensional crisis that has resulted in considerable regression of a spectrum of rights of people across the country. Ruled for many years by authoritarian military governments that suppressed opposition, it was the theatre of atrocity crimes against the Muslim Rohingya minority in 2017. A civil war between the military and multiple ethnic armed groups intensified since February 2021, exacerbating the ongoing humanitarian and human rights crises.

Since 2015, **JRR has been actively involved in all of the main avenues and mechanisms for accountability that were established to date** to bring justice to victims and survivors. In 2024, JRR conducted a consultation mission in Thailand at the border with Myanmar for the purpose of gathering the **most up to date perspectives from the field on accountability pathways**, and to assess the opportunity for the Global Survivors Fund to **develop interim reparative measures** in relation to Myanmar.

Thanks to this consultation mission, **JRR expanded its network of local and regional actors**, including ethnic-based organizations, civil society networks, international entities and other key stakeholders that are at the frontlines of documenting and gathering reliable data on the human rights situation in Myanmar.

This mission also allowed JRR to gain a deeper **understanding of the evolving challenges faced by victim's support networks and documenters on the ground**, which is essential to identify gaps and specific needs for expertise that JRR is best placed to address.

Going forward, JRR will remain reactive to requests for expert support from its partners, and will finalize **a project promoting efforts for an inclusive and Myanmar-wide accountability for survivors of international crimes and serious human rights violations**.





## MAINSTREAMING A CHILD RIGHTS APPROACH IN ACCOUNTABILITY WORK

Since 2023, JRR partnered with [Save the Children International](#) to produce a new e-learning course entitled ***Integrating a Child Rights Approach in Accountability Work***, an online course dedicated to increase the capacity of justice and human rights experts to integrate a child rights sensitive approach in their accountability work.

Stemming from a serious gap that still remains in the field of accountability, we imagined a **free and accessible tool** to help make violations committed against and affecting children more visible and ensure they are **systematically taken into account in accountability work**.

This e-learning course, made possible thanks to the support of the European Union Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid (ECHO), is among **the first e-learning platforms of the kind** to actively contribute to **mainstreaming a child rights lens in justice and accountability efforts**. We encourage all justice actors to complete this 2,5 hour module to learn more about best practices when investigating crimes and violations affecting children.

An official launch event presenting this tool to the international community was organized in collaboration with the EU Delegation and the Belgian Mission to the UN in Geneva. We are very grateful for their support in launching this important tool and we also thank our partner, Save the Children, for its collaboration in developing the e-learning course.

[LEARN MORE](#)

# KEY DEVELOPMENTS IN COLOMBIA'S TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE PROCESS: ANOTHER STEP TOWARDS RECONCILIATION



Downtown Bogotá. Credits: Adobe Stock.



The Special Jurisdiction for Peace – JEP in Spanish – has recently made public two important decisions in its macro-cases 3 and 7, respectively addressing the “false positives” scandal – extrajudicial killings committed by Colombian State agents – and the recruitment of children during the armed conflict. Summary of two major developments in Colombia’s transitional justice process.

## MACRO CASE 3

Starting with [macro-case 3](#), the Section of the JEP issued in October 2024 its first decision addressing the 6,402 cases of civilians killed and falsely presented as members of armed groups by the Military. The decision confirmed the charges against former military officers for crimes committed against indigenous communities.

A key aspect for the JEP was to **fully assess the damages caused to victims and survivors** and to ensure it could



gather insights from victims to inform its decision on **possible restorative sanctions that could be pronounced against perpetrators**, a type of sanction designed in partnership with survivors with the aim to effectively repair the harm caused.

To support the JEP, JRR deployed **psychosocial support expertise** to work with the JEP in developing a **methodology on best ways to engage with victims in a trauma-informed manner, including indigenous communities**. As a result, the **JEP broadened its understanding of the crimes committed against victims** as many of them decided to come forward and share critical additional information.

This led the JEP to **conclude that other crimes amounting to persecution against indigenous groups have been committed during the conflict**. The JEP could further decide on restorative sanctions that were satisfactory for victims and survivors.

“ The experts proposed a methodology for the JEP’s hearings. Thanks to their support, the JEP staff increased their capacity to interact with victims and perpetrators participating in the JEP’s proceedings, achieving a greater restorative impact. This process has helped us respond to victims’ expectations and demands for reparations while avoiding revictimization. ”  
*Miriam Liz Andela, Auxiliary Magistrate, JEP*

## MACRO CASE 7

Turning to [macro-case 7](#), the JEP [issued in November 2024 a ruling charging six former members of the FARC-EP Secretariat](#) with the war crimes of recruitment and use of children and other associated crimes.

JRR supported the JEP with legal expertise, and more particularly worked with the JEP on the **legal qualification of conducts associated with child recruitment and gender-based violence cases**, and with **psychosocial support expertise to assess the harm caused to victims of child recruitment and their families**.

With the support of JRR’s expertise, the **JEP developed a better understanding of the complex gender dynamics in effect within the ranks of the FARC that led to reproductive violence**. This included crimes such as forced contraception and forced abortion that were committed systematically. According to the JEP, at least 24% of the girls recruited were subjected to forced contraception and 19% of the women were subjected to forced abortions.

With the support of the JRR Psychosocial Support Expert, the JEP analysed **two conflicting narratives for children who were recruited: one of a fighter, one of a victim**. This became even more complex for female combatants.

Acknowledging that they had been victims of sexual and gender-based violence meant for them betraying the cause and the group they had been serving since they had been recruited when they were children, **leading many of them to keep secret the violations they endured**. JRR’s expertise supported the JEP in **fully assessing the damage not only caused to children victim of recruitment and use by armed groups, but also to their families and communities more broadly**.

These developments in macro-cases 3 and 7 constitute another significant step in the trailblazing transitional justice process being promoted in Colombia. These are also stepping stone decisions that advance the long quest for justice of the survivors and victims of the more than 60-year long internal armed conflict. JRR will continue working with the JEP and other local partners to promote the rights and access to justice for all victims and survivors.

“ The UN Fact-Finding Mission on Iran has received significant support from JRR in fulfilling its mandate. JRR experts have played a **critical role**, including in promoting the **meaningful participation of survivors**, building trust, and safeguarding their agency throughout the process. Their substantial body of work and commitment to justice and accountability have been instrumental for the Mission to highlight human rights violations disproportionately affecting women, children, and minority groups, as well as gender persecution intersecting with ethnic and religious-based discrimination.”

**Sara Hossain, Chairperson, UN Fact-Finding Mission on Iran**

## VOICES OF IRAN: PROMOTING SURVIVORS' AGENCY



During the so-called “Women, Life, Freedom” protests, hundreds of women throughout Iran defiantly set their headscarves on fire and cut their hair in public, demanding freedom. To repress the protests, national authorities reacted with heavy force, including detaining demonstrators and carrying out public executions<sup>1</sup>.

In an effort to shed light on state violence that occurred during and in the aftermath of the September 2022 uprising, the UN Human Rights Council (HRC) called a special session and established an International Independent Fact-Finding Mission (FFM) on Iran.

Since March 2023, JRR has deployed a total

of five experts to the FFM: **one Gender Adviser and SGBV Investigator, one Child Rights and Gender Specialist, two Legal and Gender Specialists (one focusing specifically on gender persecution), and one Information Management Specialist.**

JRR experts helped the FFM in **building trust with survivors and meaningfully promoted their participation and agency.** The deployed **Gender Adviser played a central role in this effort, acting as victim's rights advocate and focal point for referrals in the FFM team**, including by mapping and carrying outreach to relevant networks operating outside the country to which victims and survivors could be referred to receive support (e.g. LGBTQI+ networks). This resulted in **a dozen survivors being able to meet FFM Commissioners** in Geneva and participate in person at the HRC Interactive Dialogue in March 2024.

Throughout their deployments, **JRR experts assembled a substantial body of evidence that contributed to the FFM publicly reporting on serious human rights violations by the Government of Iran, many amounting to crimes against humanity.**



Scarf that women detainees in Iran were required to put to cover their hair in detention. Photo credits: Behnaz.

1. Sophie Abdulla, 2024. “Iran Executions Rise Sharply to 834 Last Year ‘To Instill Societal Fear’, report Says.” BBC. URL: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-68480284>.

# BEST PRACTICES FOR MAINSTREAMING A GENDER-BASED APPROACH



In 2024, JRR participated in the Human Rights Council's (HRC) annual discussion on the integration of a gender perspective throughout its work.

This was an occasion for JRR to share its inclusive approach to human rights work, and highlight the progress made in relation to investigating gender-based violence in UN-mandated investigations.

Over the years, JRR has witnessed a clear shift from the initial focus on the sole act of

rape to the systematic gender analysis of all human rights violations. Remarkable progress has been made, including thanks to the systematic injection of gender expertise into these investigations in partnership with UN Women and OHCHR.

Stemming from this experience, best practices and lessons learned have emerged. In fact, **we identified three basic elements to systematically consider which would guarantee the integration of a gender perspective** in these investigations in the long term:

1.

**Strong gender language in the resolutions mandating the investigations**

2.

**Sufficient budget to secure the presence of investigative and gender analysis expertise**

3.

**Gender-competent leadership**

A few years ago, to help promote these best practices, JRR, in partnership with UNW and OHCHR, revitalized a dynamic "Community of Practice" of all gender experts deployed to HRC-mandated investigations. At this expert gathering, **practitioners were provided with a chance to share lessons-learned on integrating a gender perspective in their investigative work, gather perspectives on emerging issues, and formulate recommendations for the community's next steps.**

These interactive conversations can later be translated into practitioner-oriented guidance

benefiting all investigations. Topics discussed **include integrating an intersectionality lens, gender apartheid and gender persecution, documenting reproductive violence, and gender analysis in investigations.**

At JRR, we believe firmly that **all forms of gender-based violence need to be effectively accounted for and that all forms of human rights violations should be investigated through gender-sensitive lens.** Only then will we fulfil the promises of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda and effectively promote the rights and access to justice of all victims and survivors.

## THE JRR ROSTER IN 2024



# 750+

## Experts on the JRR Roster

### DEPLOYMENTS IN 2024:

**86** New deployments

**17** Deployments carried over from previous year

**103** Deployments in total

### GENDER AND GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION:

**61%**  
Female



**39%**  
Male

**45%**  
Global South



**55%**  
Global North



**101**  
Languages spoken



**52**  
New experts recruited in 2024

**72%** Female      **28%** Male



**117**  
Nationalities

# 1,289

people benefited from the transfer of skills and knowledge from JRR experts in 2024





## OUR DONORS

**JRR WISHES TO THANK** the following contributing States and entities for their support in 2024 and without which we could not fulfill our mission of ensuring that all victims and survivors of international crimes and human rights violations have access to justice.



**Belgium** – Federal Public Service Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation.



**Canada** – Global Affairs Canada



**Canton de Genève**



**Denmark** – Permanent Mission of Denmark to the United Nations Office in Geneva



**Finland** – Ministry of Foreign Affairs



**International Center for Transitional Justice** – U.S. State Department funds



**Ireland** – Department of Foreign Affairs



**Liechtenstein** – Office for Foreign Affairs



**Luxembourg** – The Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, Defence, Development Cooperation and Foreign Trade



**The Netherlands** – Ministry of Foreign Affairs



**The Republic of Korea** – Ministry of Foreign Affairs



**Private Foundation**



**Switzerland** – Federal Department of Foreign Affairs



**Unicef**



**United Kingdom** – Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office



**United States of America** – US State Department



**UN Women**



**Ville de Genève**

Should you wish to contribute to JRR's mission, please reach out to our team.

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Email: [secretariat@justicerapidresponse.org](mailto:secretariat@justicerapidresponse.org)



To consult our **financial statements / audits**, please follow this link.

# JRR ASSOCIATION FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENSES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER (IN CHF)

	2023	2022
<b>RECEIPTS</b>		
Revenue from donors	4'270'486.37	4'535'411.62
<b>TOTAL OPERATING INCOME</b>	<b>4'270'486.37</b>	<b>4'535'411.62</b>
<b>OPERATING EXPENSES</b>		
Personnel expenses	1'767'117.30	1'642'489.21
Rent and utilities	108'648.60	117'061.85
General and Administration expenses	204'310.84	171'894.02
Consultant fees	121'520.77	176'248.80
Outreach expenses	40'199.93	21'049.30
Professional fees	43'363.53	39'230.65
Executive Board and Assembly / Committee expenses	12'635.60	21'010.50
Other operating expenses	2'105'619.59	1'870'225.55
<i>Deployments</i>	1'822'216.66	1'526'944.19
<i>Recruitment expenses, including sponsorships</i>	11'770.11	35'986.15
<i>JRR USA</i>	271'632.82	307'295.21
<b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	<b>4'403'416.16</b>	<b>4'059'209.88</b>
<b>OPERATING RESULT</b>	<b>(132'929.79)</b>	<b>476'201.74</b>
Financial expenses	(8'435.21)	(107'555.74)
<i>Interest expense</i>	950.48	161.07
<i>Other financial expenses</i>	(4'637.20)	(5'975.08)
<i>Foreign exchange gain / loss - net</i>	(4'748.49)	(101'741.73)
<b>TOTAL NON-OPERATING INCOME / (EXPENSES)</b>	<b>(8'435.21)</b>	<b>(107'555.74)</b>
<b>EXCESS / (SHORTAGE) OF RECEIPTS OVER EXPENSES</b>	<b>(141'365.00)</b>	<b>368'646.00</b>
<b>Total release of funds</b>	<b>1'703'479.00</b>	<b>1'294'978.00</b>
<b>Total allocation to funds</b>	<b>(1'562'114.00)</b>	<b>(1'663'624.00)</b>
<b>NET SURPLUS OR (DEFICIT) FOR THE PERIOD</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

## JRR ASSOCIATION FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### BALANCE SHEET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022 (IN CHF)

	2023	2022
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	1'663'440.20	2'037'453.93
Prepaid expenses and accrued income	243'547.90	143'561.68
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>1'906'988.10</b>	<b>2'181'015.61</b>
Financial assets	36'361.05	36'219.45
Non-current assets	36'361.05	36'219.45
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>1'943'349.15</b>	<b>2'217'235.06</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND FUNDS</b>		
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Other short-term liabilities	183'285.02	284'285.25
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<b>183'285.02</b>	<b>284'285.25</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>183'285.02</b>	<b>284'285.25</b>
<b>FUNDS</b>		
Donor funds	1'125'384.19	1'238'362.51
JRR funds	634'679.94	694'587.30
<i>JRR fund</i>	712'046.61	690'724.57
<i>Roster management &amp; deployment coordination fee fund</i>	107'675.78	157'384.36
<i>Foreign exchange differences</i>	(185'052.45)	(153'521.63)
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<b>1'760'064.13</b>	<b>1'932'949.81</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUNDS</b>	<b>1'943'349.15</b>	<b>2'217'235.06</b>



**JUSTICE  
RAPID  
RESPONSE**

#### **CONTACT US**

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Design: Renata Gonzalez  
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