# **JOURNALISTS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS**ANNUAL REPORT 2013



# **JOURNALISTS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS**

Journalists for Human Rights is an innovative Canadian media development organization that builds strong and independent media to promote good governance, transparency, and human rights protection.

#### **MISSION**

To empower journalists to cover human rights stories ethically and objectively.

#### **VISION**

For everyone in the world to be aware of their rights.

When media puts a spotlight on human rights, people start talking about the issues and demand change. A strong, independent media is a referee between governments and citizens. When human rights are protected, governments and authorities are more accountable and people's lives improve.

In 2013, JHR was proud to be the recipient of the Governor General's **Medal** for Services to the People of Ghana, the winner of the **Canadian** Ethnic Media Association Innovation Award, and a finalist for 2012 J-Source Newsperson of the Year.

#### BY THE NUMBERS

**2002** JHR founded by two young Canadians



300 Local media partnerships to date

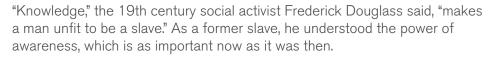
**LOCAL JOURNALISTS TRAINED IN HUMAN RIGHTS REPORTING** 

People impacted by human rights stories produced by JHR-trained journalists.



## A letter from

# **ANTHONY WILSON-SMITH** JHR BOARD CHAIR



When you understand that, you understand the guiding philosophy of Journalists for Human Rights. Our people visit, live and work in some of the most challenging environments in the world, teaching local people how to ask important questions - and how to find the answers. From our home in Canada across Africa into the Middle East, in places like Ghana, Tanzania, Sierra Leone, Liberia and – most recently – Jordan, our people embed themselves in communities, teach the basics of ethical and effective reporting techniques, and create the infrastructure for local journalists to thrive.

We saw many highlights in 2013. We launched a new project in Tanzania, and continued our flagship program in Ghana. In Liberia, JHR-trained journalist Nathan Charles took charge of his country's first live television news broadcast in more than two decades. In May, our organization received the Governor-General's medal for service to the people of Ghana, while in the same month, Yeama Thompson, our country director in Sierra Leone, spoke at the World Press Freedom Conference hosted by UNESCO. In another project, Lisa LaFlamme, the Chief Anchor and Senior Editor of CTV National News, worked with female journalists in the dangerous eastern region of the Democratic Republic of Congo. In November, we launched a new project based in Amman, Jordan, working with three of that country's leading media development organizations.

We also undertook a new initiative closer to home: in June, we started our Northern Ontario initiative, working with aboriginal people and their communities. With new changes, there was a constant - the continuing commitment to the organization's core values. In 2014, we hope to expand our Human Rights Journalism training, incorporate more data-journalism techniques, and cement the link between human rights journalism, awareness and lasting social change.

For that, we count on our board, our staff, our sponsors and volunteers - and everyone else who believes, as Frederick Douglass said, that the path to selfempowerment begins with giving people the knowledge they need to achieve their goals. To all of you, from us, thank you.

— Anthony





## A letter from

# RACHEL PULFER JHR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Journalists for Human Rights will remember 2013 as a year of expansion and impact. At the start of the year, JHR's programs were concentrated on one continent - Africa. By year's end, we had expanded to three.

JHR's theory of change is as simple as it is powerful. JHR works with journalists on tough stories that promote accountability and open up public conversations about potential solutions to local human rights problems. Time after time, in country after country, we have seen local authorities respond with relevant local solutions. The result is positive, sustainable change that is owned, managed and implemented by local authorities - no additional consultants, massive foreign investment required. Thanks to your support, we now know that this concept is as relevant in Indigenous communities in Northern Canada and in the Middle East as it is in sub-Saharan Africa.

In 2013 JHR got action. JHR trainers supported talented local journalists to report stories that caused tangible change and improved people's lives. Thanks to JHR-trained Ghanaian journalist Juanita Sallah and JHR trainer Abby Wiseman, HIV patients in Ghana continued receiving medications through a pharmacists' strike. Working in partnership Voto Mobile, JHR helped pioneer the introduction of data journalism to Ghana. And through JHR's partnership with CBC.ca/Aboriginal, the J. W. McConnell Family Foundation and The Tyee, several participants in our Northern Ontario, many of whom had never before considered journalism as a career, got published - to a national audience, for both pay and profile.

Altogether, it has been a year of extraordinary change and innovation. I would like to thank you, our supporters and champions, for helping to making it all happen. With major new projects in the pipeline for 2014 in both Northern Canada and overseas, we now invite you to help us scale and grow these gains in 2014 – and truly take JHR to the next level.

Many thanks, Rachel



# JHR AT A GLANCE IN 2013





## January

Youth Project Renewed: Funding from the Canadian Government helps launch new projects **Tanzania** and **Ghana**.

Global News journalist Tom Vernon trained journalists at CTN Radio in Freetown, Sierra Leone.

"Every journalist I worked with wanted to make a change in their country, to report on corruption and the conditions their audience live and work in. My work with them was to help them focus their stories on specific issues, and clearly explain what is happening and holding those responsible accountable." - Tom Verno

#### JHR in the Middle East

JHR Trainer Bonnie Allen and Head of International Programs Kathryn Sheppard travelled to Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, and the Palestinian Territories to train local journalists in human rights reporting, and lay the groundwork for future JHR programs in the region.

## *February*

#### J-Source Newsperson of the Year Nomination

JHR Executive Director Rachel Pulfer is nominated for her leadership of JHR and "the strides she has made inspiring journalists and educators and advancing journalism in D.R. Congo and Liberia. Her innovative partnerships with Canadian media outfits have helped train foreign journalists, raise standards and promote a "culture of accountability journalism" in emerging nations."

## March

#### JHR Celebrates Media Movers!

We celebrated our amazing Media Movers, monthly donors to JHR whose support is integral to keeping JHR's programming top notch. Former JHRtrainers Mackay Taggart, Damon van der Linde, and Kimberly Gale shared their experiences of elections reporting in Sierra Leone.

## April

JHR-trained journalist leads Liberia's nightly TV News: Nathan Charles leads Liberia's first live newscast in 22 years.

#### May

JHR receives Governor General's Medal for service to the people of Ghana and JHR Sierra Leone's Yeama Thompson and Rachel Pulfer represented JHR at the UNESCO World Press Freedom Conference.

# JHR AT A GLANCE IN 2013







## May continued...

CTV News' **Lisa LaFlamme** visits JHR's team in D.R. Congo and mentors female journalists in the war-torn eastern city of Goma.

The Northern Ontario Initiative – JHR's first Canadian project – starts work in six remote communities, supported by the Ontario Trillium Foundation and Accenture.

## **7**une

JHR Wins Canadian Ethnic Media Association's 2013 Innovation Award. JHR is recognized for its groundbreaking Northern Ontario Initiative and partnership with Wawatay Native Communications Society. Rachel Pulfer shared the stage with JHR Program Manager Robin Pierro and Mike Metatawabin of Wawatay.

JHR's program in Liberia wraps up after five incredible years. A strong network of press clubs and journalism trainers, and a university course on human rights reporting will keep human rights journalism strong in Liberia.

## September

The Night for Rights Gala is a sold-out success, moving development of JHR's programs forward to expansion in the Middle East and Northern Ontario.

From Sierra Leone to Toronto: Amara Bangura the 2013/14 Gordon N. Fisher/JHR Journalism Fellow started an eight-month fellowship at Massey College in the University of Toronto.

#### November

JHR launches a new data-journalism project in Jordan, funded by the U.S. Middle East Partnership Initiative.

Campaigning for Press Freedom in Liberia: JHR joins the campaign to free imprisoned Liberian editor Rodney Sieh.

#### December

New Voices from the North: Participants in JHR's Northern Ontario Initiative begin publishing on CBC.ca/Aboriginal.

**International Human Rights Day:** JHR presents at the Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development in Ottawa.

# **MEASURING** SUCCESS





#### INVESTING IN PEOPLE, SMALL BUSINESSES, AND COMMUNITIES

JHR invests in people: When journalists receive human rights reporting training, and are mentored by JHR staff, they gain valuable professional skills that help them advance in their careers.

JHR invests in small businesses: Partnering with local media organizations, JHR staff help media editors and managers refine their business models by working more efficiently, publishing stronger stories, and professionalizing the workplace.

**JHR invests in communities:** JHR's projects are long-term and sustainable. We strengthen the media culture in countries and cities where we work, and we hire local journalists as JHR trainers, to continue human rights media training after JHR's formal programs finish.

#### TRACKING IMPACT

What does a successful JHR project look like? Because all JHR programs are designed to meet specific local needs in countries and regions, we don't have a cookie-cutter vision of success. Yet these five actions are necessary for all or our projects to have long-term and sustainability.

## 1) Create Network of Human Rights Press Clubs

Press clubs help journalists advocate for their safety and strengthen the media sector. JHR's network of human rights-focused clubs creates a key support system for journalists covering dangerous issues.

How it works: In war-ravaged eastern D.R. Congo, the members of JHR's press clubs are supporting each other through difficult times. To combat individual intimidation, club members work together on tough stories to minimize the threat of retaliation from angry authorities. If one reporter is threatened, the press club publicizes the threat. And if a politician is doing the threatening, the club denies that politician access to their airwaves for a given period of time. By investing in their skills and networks, JHR press club members collaborate with each other on stories, and have the tools and knowledge to keep safe on the job.

#### 2) Create a Network of Local Trainers

Creating a network of local journalism trainers makes sure that JHR skills and knowledge stay in the media community. New journalists learn from colleagues and expand their professional skills.

**How it works:** In Sierra Leone, JHR staff chose a group of journalists with strong leadership abilities to become JHR local trainers. By 2013 the trainer network was flourishing and local trainers became JHR's primary staff in the country. Kevin Lamdo and Martha Kargbo are part of that network. In 2013, they started a human rights newspaper to encourage and mentor their colleagues in human rights reporting. When Deutsche Welle, an international organization, wanted to hold a media training workshop, rather than bringing in an outsider it asked Kevin to lead the training for his peers.

# **MEASURING** SUCCESS

course in Liberia



The JHR Local Trainer program creates a group of talented journalism mentors whose experience is rooted in the same environment as those they are training.

## 3) Support for Effective Media Management

JHR works with editors, publishers, and producers to make production and advertising plans that support strong content and increase revenue.

**How it works:** During JHR's Liberia program, trainers worked with staff at FrontPageAfrica, Liberia's leading investigative online newspaper, to produce human rights stories in a climate of government pressure. After investigating a corruption commission that found \$6 million missing from government funds, FrontPageAfrica's editor, Rodney Sieh, was arrested and the publication was closed.

After several months of international outcry and pressure, Rodney was released and FrontPageAfrica re-opened. The website and its print edition continue to be committed to exposing official corruption.

4) Develop a Human Rights Reporting Course at local universities Educating future reporters is crucial to sustainability. By taking JHR's course, journalism students gain skills and knowledge to report ethically and effectively, on human rights issues in their communities.

**How it works:** In 2013, the University of Liberia started to teach JHR's Human Rights Reporting course. The course is now mandatory for all students in the Mass Communications program and is taught by Frank Sainworla, a well-known reporter and a local JHR trainer. Other universities in Liberia are considering teaching JHR's course. A similar class, based on JHR principles, is taught at the Institute Facultaire des Sciences de la Communication in the D.R. Congo, and JHR works closely with universities in Ghana and Sierra Leone.

#### 5) Support Strong Press Freedom Laws

In places where press freedom is weak, JHR works with journalists to find creative ways to publish human rights storied. Where press freedom is stronger, we work with journalists to enforce good laws.

How it works: In August 2013, the Tanzanian government shut down Mwananchi Newspaper, one of the country's largest Swahili-language newspapers. Officials claimed to be acting under the 1976 Newspapers Act, a law that allows closing media outlets in the interests of 'national security. JHR worked with Mwananchi staff to get their stories out via social media - a neat way to get around a law that was written when social media did not exist. The government relaxed its ban on Mwananchi two weeks later.

# INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS



#### **PUTTING HUMAN RIGHTS IN HEADLINES**

#### Jordan

In November, JHR launched its first program in the Middle East. Headquartered in **Amman**, and funded by the **US Middle East Partnerships Initiative**, the program trains journalists to use new technology to report human rights and freedom of expression violations.

#### Liberia

In June, JHR celebrated the end of a major program, **Good Governance through Strengthened Media**, funded by the UK's **Department for International Development**. JHR's program trained 497 journalists – 30% female and 28% from rural areas.

JHR's program in Liberia had a truly national impact. We worked in 13 of Liberia's 15 counties and mentored journalists from 21 media organizations. In 2013 alone, JHR-trained journalists produced 232 stories. The results tell a powerful story. In a national poll, 74% of respondents claimed that they became more aware of human rights and good governance through the media in 2013, compared with just 41% in 2008, when JHR started work there.

## D.R. Congo

D.R. Congo has an overwhelming need for human rights reporting. By focusing on key regions and investing in young journalists, JHR is changing media culture and strengthening regional news outlets.

Gender-based violence is pervasive in the D.R. Congo. Working with journalism students and press clubs, JHR is breaking down the stigma that surrounds victims. In 2013, JHR in D.R. Congo trained 155 journalism students from 11 student chapters and press clubs who produced 44 human right stories.

#### JHR GETS ACTION!

Carat Kuhinia and Alain Kabala, are journalism students and members of JHR's student chapter in Kinshasa. Working with JHR, they created a documentary on sexual violence that aired on a major national broadcaster. The documentary focused on information about services available to victims of sexual abuse, such as medical help and counselling.

After the documentary aired, a 13-year-old girl who had been sexually abused came forward and told her story on TV. She was accompanied by her mother, who publicly stood up for her daughter's rights. Later, a 15 year old girl found the courage to tell relatives she was abused by her father for years.

Both girls who spoke out have returned to school and are receiving counseling, supported by a local charity that helps victims of sexual abuse. Carat and Alain's documentary is still being broadcast on a leading private station, reaching hundreds of thousands of people on a daily basis.

Carat and Alain have plans for more documentaries.

"I'm not afraid of being the voice of the voiceless," Carat explains. "JHR helped me spotlight issues in an objective and independent manner. Whoever that will be honest enough to acknowledge my objectivity will not question my integrity nor my safety."

# INTERNATIONAL **PROGRAMS**

Sierra Leone



#### Sierra Leone

Building on JHR's 2012 elections reporting training, in 2013 we shifted JHR's focus to empowering female journalists in Sierra Leone and increasing the members of the female press corps.

In 2013, JHR trained 167 Sierra Leonean journalists who produced 122 human rights stories. JHR led six reporting trips to rural areas where reporters investigated local issues that would never otherwise been reported in the national news.

#### Ghana and Tanzania

With funding from the Canadian International Development Agency, JHR's programs in Ghana and Tanzania strengthened the skills of young Canadian journalists and helped local media raise the bar.

JHR's program gives valuable work experience to recent Canadian graduates who work closely with JHR media partners to build the capacity of local media. In 2013, 20 Canadians participated in the program and worked with journalists at three radio stations, three universities, and four newspapers.

#### **PROGRAM SNAPSHOT**



In Ghana, Globe and Mail reporter Iain Marlow worked with staff at CitiFM and The Globe Newspaper on a national corruption investigation. Using telephone polling and a social media campaign, Iain and the team found that 46% of Ghanaians had paid a bribe in the last year.

The story hit the newspaper's front page and kicked off the establishment of a data journalism desk in the newsroom.

#### **JHR GETS ACTION!**

Diana Coker, a radio reporter working with JHR trainers, joined reporting trip to Kambia, a district of 315,000 people in Sierra Leone's remote northwest.

She noticed shiny new taps in Kambia – a potentially crucial source of clean, safe water in region that has had two recent cholera epidemics. But when Diana turned the taps on, nothing came out. She decided to investigate.

Diana learned that the public taps were installed with a government grant, but there were no funds to keep

the water pump running and the taps flowing. Without government funds and collection of \$3.50 monthly household user fees, no water would flow. In a region with recent cholera epidemics, people were using unclean water sources.

After Diana's story aired on the radio, the local town council turned the water taps on. Now people have access to safe, clean water and they are more aware of why paying water fees is important.

# JHR IN CANADA INVESTING AT HOME



communities to report on local issues and news



JHR is a unique Canadian success story and we are proud to support human rights journalism at home. In 2013 we launched a new program in Northern Ontario, expanded partnerships with Canadian media, and JHR student chapters brought human rights awareness to campuses across the country.

#### THE NORTHERN ONTARIO INITIATIVE

In June 2013 JHR launched its first media development program in Canada. The program trains Aboriginal people in remote communities to report on local issues and news. Participants pitch their stories to regional and national media, building a freelance portfolio and gaining valuable professional experience. In the city of Thunder Bay we trained journalists in best practices for reporting on Aboriginal communities. There are now more Aboriginal voices and perspectives in Canadian media and awareness of local human rights issues is growing in Northern Ontario communities.

From community events on media-literacy to one-on-one mentorship, to supporting local reporting and photography clubs, JHR staff empowered and supported participants to share their stories, cover local events and pitch their work to media organizations. Participants' work and program training materials are showcased on dibaajimo.com, JHR's online hub for Aboriginal journalism.

"Successes come in all sizes. Whether it is seeing the sense of empowerment in the eyes of a trainee, watching a trainee jump into coverage of a story, or celebrating their publication, each of these successes is a step toward northern First Nations voices being heard in Canada."

— Kimberly Stinson, 7HR Trainer

#### **JHR STUDENT CHAPTERS**

From fundraising to raising awareness to publishing human rights journalism, JHR Student Chapter members are an important part of JHR's community.



"Working with JHR is great because it gives you chance to get involved in areas that you are passionate about. There is a real excitement that comes with researching and writing about topics that inspire or move you, and it's encouraging to know that you are contributing, even

in a small way, to the world that you want to see built."

— Garrett Barry, JHR Carleton

#### In 2013, JHR Student Chapters...

- · Hosted a conference on media in the Middle East and North Africa at the University of Toronto
- Established a \$1 200 Rights Media Documentary Scholarship at Concordia.
- Produced more than 100 human rights media stories
- Raised over \$900 at Carleton University to support JHR in Sierra Leone

# JHR IN CANADA INVESTING AT HOME





Reporting, Nalah Ayed and Diane Grant





## STRENGTHENING SKILLS: THE GORDON N. FISHER/JHR JOURNALISM FELLOWSHIP

The Gordon N. Fisher/JHR Journalism Fellowship at Massey College in the University of Toronto is an annual opportunity for an African journalist to participate in the William Southam Journalism Fellowship Program.

The 2013-14 Gordon N Fisher/JHR Fellow was award-winning BBC correspondent Amara Bangura. Amara is a Sierra Leonean radio journalist who got his start in community radio. Amara started working with JHR in 2008, and won an award for a story on neglected mental health patients. In 2009, Amara reported for the BBC on the trial of former Liberian President, Charles Taylor, at the International Criminal Court. His reports were broadcast internationally and broadly praised for their accuracy and integrity.

## RECOGNIZING EXCELLENCE: JHR-CAJ AWARD FOR HUMAN **RIGHTS REPORTING**

In partnership with the Canadian Association of Journalists, JHR recognizes the best human rights reporting in Canada each year.

In 2013 Nalah Ayed and Diane Grant of the CBC's The National, won for their documentary Seeking Safety. The in-depth investigation focused on Roma refugees to Canada and their struggles with the Canadian immigration system. Nalah and Diane focused on one family's journey, exploring why they fled Hungary, their journey to Canada and their hopes for a better future.

#### CATALYZING IMPACT: JHR SHORT TERM TRAINER PARTNERSHIPS

When Canadian newsrooms support JHR, we see impact at home and abroad. In 2013, Global News, CBC and CTV News partnered with JHR, sending reporters to JHR programs as Short-Term Expert Trainers. The journalists focus on individual mentorship, and file stories for Canadian audiences.

"I worked with one fellow who wanted to become more efficient with his day so I challenged him to meet a pretty aggressive deadline. I will never forget the sight of him sprinting in to play me the final copy. He had a huge smile on his face. Nothing is more rewarding than to see the best potential in people shine."

— Jayme Doll, Global News Calgary

#### RAISING AWARENESS: LEADING TOGETHER

Raising awareness about human rights in Canada is a priority for JHR. In 2013, we partnered with the J.W. McConnell Family Foundation and Tyee Solutions Society to produce Leading Together, a series of articles that profiled innovative projects empowering Aboriginal youth across Canada. The articles were published in the Tyee.ca, CBC.ca/Aboriginal, Wawataynews.ca and Speakjhr.com.

## STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS AND NET ASSETS

Year ended December 31st, 2013 and 2012

# **AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**





## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

December 31st, 2013

# **AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**



	2013	2012
Assets		
Current Assets:		
Cash	\$172,801	\$174,458
Accounts receivable	\$102,398	\$168,798
Prepaid expenses	\$7,188	\$40,253
	\$282,387	\$383,509
Capital Assets	\$12,360	\$18,817
	\$294,747	\$402,326
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Current Liabilities:		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$43,172	\$67,891
Current portion of deferred capital contribution	\$2,243	\$4,321
Deferred Revenue	\$171,281	\$167,723
	\$216,696	\$240,935
Deferred capital contribution	\$4,994	\$6,369
Net Assets:		
Unrestricted	\$73,057	\$155,022
	\$294,747	\$402,326

## **JHR 2013 SUPPORTERS**

Without our donors and supporters, JHR would be just an idea.

Thank-you for supporting life-changing journalism, and for putting human rights in the headlines!

#### **PROGRAM SUPPORT**

- Canadian International Development Agency
- · Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade
- National Endowment for Democracy
- Australian Agency for International Development
- US Embassy Sierra Leone
- US Embassy Democratic Republic of Congo
- UNICEF
- UN Program in Sierra Leone
- European Instrument of Democracy and Human Rights/BBC Media Action Sierra Leone

- · Sigrid Rausing Trust
- The Donner Canadian Foundation
- Swiftsure Foundation
- UK Department For International Development
- UK Foreign & Commonwealth Office
- UN Women
- The Ontario Trillium Foundation
- US Middle East Partnership Initiative
- JW McConnell Family Foundation
- Canadian Commission for UNESCO

#### **CORPORATE SUPPORT**

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# **JHR 2013 SUPPORTERS**



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- Gary Anandasangaree
- Jennifer Brigden
- Kevin Hill
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# **JHR 2013 SUPPORTERS**

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  - Laura Bogomolny
  - Alexandra Sicotte-Levesque
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- Amy Digout
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- David Miller

Thank-you for supporting JHR in 2013! We look forward to putting more human rights stories on news in 2014.

