



BHRC 2008–2009 BIENNIAL REPORT

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Chapter 1: Forward by the Chairman Mark Muller QC

The Bar Human Rights Committee in 2008 and 2009



2008 and 2009 continued to be very important years for human rights and the work of the Bar Human Rights Committee.

Throughout the last two years the Committee has continued to fulfil its mandate in seeking to protect persecuted lawyers, judges and human rights defenders around the world, as well as promoting respect for the rule of law through its fact-finding missions, training

and seminar programmes, trial observations, and test case litigation. In doing so, it has forged new and exciting partnerships with a range of other like-minded organisations from Zimbabwe to Syria to Colombia. In particular, the Committee continued to make a number of important interventions through its justice reconstruction programmes in Palestine, Iraq, and Afghanistan winning the 2008 *Sydney Elland Goldsmith* Bar Pro Bono Award for its innovative "Access to Justice in Afghanistan" project.

Interventions in relation to issues arising out of the "war on terror"

Throughout 2008 and 2009 the BHRC continued to voice its concern about various human rights issues arising out of the so-called "war on terror" from the use of torture, rendition, and secret detention facilities, to the treatment of detainees at Guantanamo Bay and their lack of access to justice, onto the conduct of UK troops towards civilians in Iraq. It issued various statements of concerns and urgent actions. For example, its letters of inquiry to the Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO) concerning the alleged use of Diego Garcia in secret rendition arrangements hit the world headlines after the then Foreign Secretary David Miliband revised a previous representation that the facility had not been used in the rendition of highly valued

detainees. The BHRC filed further briefs in cases such as *Omar Khadr*, building on a body of previous successful US Supreme Court interventions made in cases such as *Rasul v Bush* and *Hamdan v Rumsfeld* in an effort to protect fundamental rights concerning access to justice. Elsewhere, the Committee submitted a legal intervention to the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) in April 2009, along with the European Rights Advocacy Centre, Human Rights Watch, and the International Federation for Human Rights in the case of *Al-Skeini and others v. the UK*. One month later it submitted a further intervention with Liberty and Redress in the case of *Al-Saadoon and Mufdhi v. the UK* on the issue of extra-territorial jurisdiction of the Convention. It would be amiss not to also mention the individual work of Committee members, Tim Otty QC and Ajanta Kaza, who won the 2008 Liberty/Justice Human Rights Lawyer of the Year Award and 2008 Peter Duffy Award for Human Rights, respectively, for their pro bono litigation work in 'war on terror' related litigation and defence of fundamental rights before the ECtHR.

Justice reconstruction programmes

2008/9 also saw the Committee complete its important long-term work in both Afghanistan and the Occupied Palestinian Territory. In May 2008, a five member team visited Kabul to complete a final set of training seminars at the Centre for Policy and Human Development (CPHD) at Kabul University and inspect some of ten legal libraries across the country that the Committee helped restock with around 10,000 books in Dari, Farsi and Arabic from Tehran and Damascus. This period also saw the completion of our FCO funded training programme in Ramallah in which seven barristers helped train Palestinian lawyers on human rights law and evidence gathering techniques. In 2008, the Committee helped further fund and establish a human rights committee of the Palestinian Bar Association in Bethlehem. In December 2008, the Committee sent further trainers and investigators to the region to inquire into the issue of child rights. In 2009 the

Committee gave support to an international delegation of UK-based lawyers, including Executive Committee members Blinne Ní Ghráiligh and Bill Bowring, and Roy Amlot QC, Helena Kennedy QC and Michael Mansfield QC, inquiring into the prosecution of Palestinian civilians, including children, in the Israeli military court system. This important report is due out later this year.

Training and seminars

Throughout 2008/9 the Committee continued to send trainers around the world. For example, in October 2008 it conducted a two-day seminar in Beirut on international criminal law and human rights standards before the international courts. Professor Bill Bowring continued his remarkable work in Russia and Georgia delivering training to over 140 lawyers and facilitating important legal exchanges to London and Strasbourg. In Africa, the Committee partnered up with the International Lawyer's project (ILP) to provide training at the newly established Tanzania Law School while Committee members continued their important association with the Law Society of Zimbabwe. Elsewhere, Vice-Chair, Kirsty Brimelow, led two training missions to Columbia in 2009, along with Dorian Lovell-Plank QC, the former chair of the Bar Council's International Relations Committee. The Committee conducted further training missions in places such as Armenia, Iraq, and Turkey.

Other important missions and initiatives

Beyond conducting various trial observations, the Committee also launched two new major missions of inquiry into the human rights situation in Mexico and Zimbabwe during this period. In November 2009, the Committee led an international delegation with partner organisation, Peace Brigades International (PBI), to carry out an independent and impartial investigation into the rule of law in the states of Guerrero and Oaxaca and the plight of indigenous people and their defenders. The mission is part of the Committee's

wider strategy of focussing on issues in Latin America in 2010. The mission followed on the heels of an earlier mission to Cuba in September 2009 to evaluate the effect of the embargo on human rights. The Committee's Mexico Report was launched by Lord Brennan in Parliament in June 2010. The other significant mission was to Zimbabwe in October 2009 to conduct a rule of law audit in the wake of the Global Political Agreement reached in 2008. The mission was led by former Chairman of the Bar, Desmond Browne QC, who was joined by BHRC Committee members Mark Muller QC, Andrew Moran, Ijeoma Omambala from the International Relations Committee of the Bar Council, as well as representatives from the Commonwealth Lawyers Association and Avocats Sans Frontières. This important report was launched in the summer of July 2010 in parliament with Lord Steel presiding.

One other important initiative launched in 2009 worthy of note is the creation of a new BHRC Childs Rights Unit (CRU) to provide direct legal assistance to NGOs and grass roots organisations. The CRU has already conducted seminars and is in the process of drafting new manuals for use in 2010. During the course of 2009, the CRU worked closely with the Lancashire-based charity, Stepping Stones Nigeria, to draft child friendly legislation and conduct training.

Traditional areas of support

Throughout 2008/9 the Committee continued to raise traditional concerns about the persecution of lawyers and judges around the world. It was instrumental in leading an international coalition of NGO's against the imprisonment of scores of lawyers and the house arrest of the former Chief Justice of Pakistan, with Hina Jalani, the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General for Human Rights Defenders, and Irene Khan former Secretary General of Amnesty International. Committee members, such as Kirsty Brimelow, conducted trial observations in Bahrain and beyond. In Bahrain, the presence of international observers

was considered to have contributed to the conduct of the trial, and all defendants were subsequently pardoned and released from prison. Elsewhere, the Committee continued to monitor developments in Turkey, co-hosting its annual EU Turkey Civic Commission (EUTCC) monitoring conference at the European Parliament. It also continued its existing initiative to engage with Islamic communities with further missions to Lebanon, Bahrain, Syria and Iraq through its association with cultural institutions, such as the Delfina Foundation and the British Council. This important work is supplemented each year by its public speaker meetings in London, along with its annual workshop at the Bar Conference, details of which appear in this report.

A word of thanks

The Committee would once again like formally to note that none of this important work is possible without the annual grant from the support of the Bar Council. We are extremely grateful for the support each Chairman has given the Committee along with that of the Chief Executive and the International Relations Committee. Mention should also be made of Garden Court Chambers, which continues to provide the Committee with access to its extensive facilities free of charge. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank our other funders and partner organisation, many of which appear in the Introduction. However, if the Committee is to maintain and expand its activities it needs your support and donations. We have recently revised our Constitution and embarked on a new recruitment and fundraising campaign. To that end, we have set up a sub-committee in the North of England that will hold its own meetings throughout 2010 and beyond. I believe 2010 will be another critical year for both human rights and the work of the Committee. We urge all of you who are interested in our work to get involved and make contact at the address provided.

Chapter 2: The Bar Human Rights Committee

The Organisation

The Bar Human Rights Committee (BHRC) is a committee of independent practitioners, legal academics and lawyers in Government service in the United Kingdom, founded in 1991 and based in London.

The BHRC is dedicated to protecting the human rights of people around the world and has an internationally respected reputation for independence, integrity and professional skill. The Committee offers a pool of specialist advocates and experts who play a leading role in the development of law and human rights protection worldwide.

The geographical remit of the BHRC extends to all countries apart from England and Wales; its purposive remit is to maintain its role as independent and highly qualified observer, critic and advisor in relation to internationally accepted principles of the rule of law.

Aims

- To support and protect practising lawyers, judges and human rights defenders who are threatened or oppressed in their work;
- To uphold the rule of law and internationally recognised human rights norms and standards;
- To further interest in and knowledge of human rights and the laws relating to human rights (both within and outside the legal profession);
- To advise, support and co-operate with other organisations and individuals working for human rights;
- To advise the Bar Council of England and Wales in connection with human rights issues.

Methods

- Conducting international fact-finding investigations, trial observations and feasibility studies and reporting on human rights situations;
- Building capacity through training in advocacy, human rights and humanitarian law;
- Providing legal resources that help strengthen institutions which have a direct impact on the promotion and protection of human rights and the rule of law;
- Monitoring human rights abuses and raising awareness of the plight of victims of human rights violations through the media and public meetings;
- Liaising with governmental and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) working in the same field and co-operating with judges, lawyers, academics, civil society activists and others concerned with human rights;
- Assisting individuals and groups to challenge governments and those holding power to end abusive practices and to respect international human rights law.

Chapter 3: Projects

3.1 Training

Afghanistan

In 2008, the BHRC completed the *Access to Justice in Afghanistan* project. The three-year project, funded by the Foreign & Commonwealth Office Global Opportunities Fund, has provided training for local lawyers, academics, NGOs and students, and sourced, bought and distributed 10,000 legal textbooks to a number of legal and academic libraries and institutions throughout Afghanistan. Barristers have provided training at annual workshops in Kabul, focusing on discrimination, violence against women and the rule of law.

In May 2008, the BHRC completed their final set of training workshops at the Center for Policy and Human Development (CPHD), Kabul University. Members of the BHRC team included Samantha Knights (Matrix Chambers), Naina Patel (Blackstones Chambers), Sudhanshu Swaroop (20 Essex Street), Mark Muller QC (Garden Court Chambers) and Naoimh Hughes (BHRC Project Coordinator). BHRC worked in conjunction with project partners the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC).

The 2008 workshops built upon the previous years' seminars, to contribute to and complement the work of the AIHRC and the CPHD and to provide a forum for inter-active discussion on topical and practical issues relating to the rule of law in Afghanistan. Approximately 40 participants were involved in the training, including individuals from Afghan government departments, AIHRC, CPHD, international agencies, Afghan and international NGOs and others.

The aims of the workshops were to:

- Promote the dissemination of legal skills and knowledge to key actors in the legal sector thereby contributing to the reestablishment of the rule of law in Afghanistan and improving access to justice for all Afghans – in particular, women – to achieve stability and security;
- Contribute to judicial reform by increasing awareness of

international human rights legislation, domestic and other legislation among key individuals in the legal sector;

- Complement the reconstruction of the judicial system proposed by UNAMA.UNDP in conjunction with the Afghan Judicial Reform Commission.

The feedback from the workshops has been unanimously positive. It is hoped that this is a reflection of the preparation and time spent in devising the sessions, selecting facilitators and speakers, and ensuring that there was sufficient time on each occasion for all participants to make comments, raise particular issues and ask questions.

Overall the participants responded positively to the usefulness of the daily training sessions, use of case studies and the training manual. It is hoped that some will use the training materials provided in Dari and Pashto to train other individuals/ organisations.

Copies of the training manuals can be found on the BHRC's website: <http://www.barhumanrights.org.uk/reports>

Following the completion of the BHRC project in Afghanistan, BHRC was the proud recipient of the prestigious *Sydney Elland Goldsmith Bar Pro Bono Award* for 2008 presented by Lord Bingham of Cornhill at the Bar Conference on Saturday 1 November 2008. The award was in recognition of BHRC's *Access to Justice in Afghanistan* project.



In picture L-R: Naina Patel, Naoimh Hughes, Sudhanshu Swaroop, Lord Bingham of Cornwall, Samantha Knights and Mark Muller QC

Lebanon

In October 2008, in association with the Beirut Bar Association the BHRC conducted a two day seminar in Beirut on the application of international criminal law and human rights standards before the international criminal courts, with particular emphasis on the International Criminal Court (ICC) established by the Rome Statute 1998. The BHRC trainers were Rodney Dixon (Matrix) and Karim Khan (2 Hare Court), and the training was funded by the British Embassy in Beirut. Participants included members of the Beirut Bar Association and academics. Topics included jurisdiction; the principle of complementarity; the ICC's cooperation with States; the conduct of investigations; pre-trial and trial procedure; admissibility of evidence; expert evidence; and victim participation.

Participants considered the strengths and weakness of the international criminal justice system and the extent to which human rights principles had been observed in the law and practice of the international criminal courts. The seminar also included a discussion on the Special Tribunal for Lebanon as the most recent addition to the host of international and internationalised courts that have emerged in the past two decades.

Russia and the Former Soviet Union

BHRC has been in long-standing partnership with the European Human Rights Advocacy Centre (EHRAC) at London Metropolitan University. EHRAC works with partner NGOs in Russia and Georgia.

As part of their commitment to build the capacity of Russian and Georgian NGOs and lawyers to take cases to the European Court of Human Rights, BHRC and EHRAC have worked together to design and run a number of training events during 2008 and 2009. BHRC's work with EHRAC has been facilitated by BHRC Executive Committee members Professor Bill Bowring (Birkbeck College) and Samantha Knights (Matrix Chambers).



Bill Bowring roundtable meeting Moscow

During 2008 and 2009, ten training programmes were delivered to over 140 lawyers including public defenders. Training focused on how to apply the ECHR in domestic legal proceedings and how to bring cases to the ECtHR. This included study visits to the European Court; meetings with judges, registry lawyers, officials and barristers; study visits to Matrix Chambers (London); and participation within a mock court setting. Training also highlight important issues for litigating and how to develop a successful litigation strategy.

Trainings were delivered in conjunction with the Georgian Young Lawyers' Association (GYLA), Memorial (a Russian-based NGO), Citizen's Watch (a St. Petersburg-based NGO) and the South Siberian Human Rights Centre (SSHRC). Trainings were held in Bukuriani (Georgia), London (UK), Moscow (Russia), Novokuznetsk (Russia), St Petersburg (Russia) and Tbilisi (Georgia).



Samantha Knights training

Occupied Palestinian Territory

BHRC has been involved in the occupied Palestinian Territory since 1994, working with Palestinian and Israeli lawyers, human rights activists and NGOs. In recent years, BHRC has developed close links with the Palestinian Bar Association, including in particular its Bethlehem Branch, the Independent Commission for Human Rights, and NGOs such as Al Haq, Addameer and Defence for Children International (DCI). BHRC regularly receives requests for assistance with interventions involving the torture and/or ill-treatment of Palestinian detainees, including child detainees, in Israeli custody and the detention and trial by the Israeli administration of Palestinian human rights activists.



Al Haq office (Ramallah, Andrew Sanger, December 2008)

In recent years BHRC has provided extensive training on human rights and humanitarian law to lawyers and human rights activists. It has also worked with NGOs *inter alia* to review procedures for the better identification, documentation and reporting of human rights abuses.

In July and December 2008, the BHRC continued its programme of human rights work in the occupied Palestinian Territory by providing further training on human rights and humanitarian law to lawyers and human rights activists. Representatives of the BHRC, including BHRC Executive Committee member Blinne Ní Ghrálaigh (Matrix Chambers), BHRC Project Coordinator Jacqueline Macalasher, and BHRC intern Andrew Sanger, travelled to the region to meet with NGOs and lawyers, the Palestinian Bar Association, the Independent Commission for Human Rights and representatives from the British Consulate in Jerusalem. They also conducted trial observations of proceedings in the Israeli Military Courts.

In December 2008, BHRC Executive Committee member Blinne Ní Ghrálaigh (Matrix Chambers) spoke at a conference on torture in the West Bank, organised by United Against Torture, a coalition of organisations working to combat torture in Israel and the occupied Palestinian Territory. The conference, which was part-funded by the British Consulate in Jerusalem, was attended by approximately 30 Palestinian, Israeli and international lawyers and human rights defenders. The training session led by BHRC focused on the nature of the prohibition on torture and inhuman and degrading treatment under international law, including the UN Convention Against Torture, and on international mechanisms for redress for victims. A particular focus was placed on the UN Special Procedure system (established to examine and publicly report on human rights situations in specific countries or territories or on particular forms of human rights abuses, such as torture) and on the mechanisms through which victims and organisations representing victims and their families can submit complaints of human rights violations to the different UN special rapporteurs and working groups.

Syria

In July 2009, the BHRC sent two barristers (Jessica Boyd, Blackstone Chambers and Rupert Reed, Wilberforce Chambers) to undertake training on “legal drafting” with the Orient Centre in Damascus, Syria for two days. The training was organised by the Orient Centre for International Studies and funded by the Foreign & Commonwealth Office.

It is hoped in the future that BHRC can build links with lawyers in Syria through the Syrian Bar Association.



Jessica Boyd presenting workshop (Damascus, July 2009)

Colombia

BHRC has been involved in Colombia since 2003, working with Colombian lawyers, human rights activists and NGOs to sustain strong links with the human rights community and the legal profession. BHRC has developed close links with the José Alvear Restrepo Lawyers' Collective (*Colectivo de Abogados José Alvear Restrepo*, CCAJAR) in Bogotá which brings high profile cases against agents of the Colombian State to address impunity for human rights abuses, and with the Luis Carlos Perez Lawyers Collective (*Colectivo de Abogados Luis Carlos Perez*, CALCP) based in north-eastern Colombia, who work with the internally displaced population in that part of the country.

In February 2009, BHRC Vice-chair Kirsty Brimelow (Doughty Street Chambers) visited Colombia on a human rights delegation (organised by Peace Brigades International and funded by the German Government). During this visit, BHRC met with members of legal profession, human rights activists and academics to discuss their immediate need for assistance, which included the need for capacity building on international human rights standards.

Following this initial mission, BHRC were able to develop a human rights training programme in conjunction with local lawyers.

During the first week of September 2009, BHRC took a delegation of lawyers to Colombia to take part in a training seminar on international human rights law. The members of the delegation included: Kirsty Brimelow (BHRC Vice-chair, Doughty Street); Sudhanshu Swaroop (BHRC Executive Committee Member, 20 Essex Street); Dorian Lovell-Pank QC (6 King's Bench Walk); Phil Haywood (Doughty Street); Ajanta Kaza (1 Pump Court); Jacqueline Macalesher (BHRC Project Coordinator).



L-R: Dorian Lovell-Pank QC, Phil Haywood, Kirsty Brimelow, Alirio Uribe (CCAJAR), Jacqueline Macalesher, Lucia Obregon (Translator), and Sudhanshu Swaroop (Bogota, September 2009)

The training was held over three days (2-4 September 2009) at the Universidad Autonoma, Bogotá, Colombia, and was held in conjunction with CCAJAR and the Association of Colombian Human Rights Defenders (ACADEUM), both based in Bogotá, Colombia.

Around 100 participants took part in the human rights law training seminars, including local lawyers, academics, judges, trade unionists, journalists and NGO leaders. The training focused on subjects such as the rule of law; access to justice; extrajudicial executions and enforced disappearances; impunity; indigenous people and minority rights; freedom of assembly and expression; and international and regional enforcement mechanisms. On a fundamental level, the delegation provided international support to those under constant threat because of their legitimate work.

One of the main outputs of the project was the production of a handbook for Colombian lawyers. The 50 page handbook, printed in both English and Spanish, sets out the key human rights standards as established in international systems and frameworks. The handbook sets out in detail the United Nations Special Procedure system through which complaints against human rights violations committed with Colombia may be made.

The training manual can be found on the BHRC's website: <http://www.barhumanrights.org.uk/reports>

In addition to the training seminar, the BHRC also took part in a public forum on 'Human Rights and Judicial Independence as Democratic Values' at the Universidad Autonoma, Bogotá. Over 350 participants attended the public forum, and presentations were made by Kirsty Brimelow (BHRC Vice-Chair), as well as academics, local lawyers and a Judge from the Supreme Court of Justice.

The BHRC continues its work in solidarity with the local lawyers in Colombia.



Kirsty Brimelow presenting at Universidad Autonoma (Bogota, Jacqueline Macalesher, September 2009)

Tanzania

Partnering up with the International Lawyers' Project (ILP), BHRC will be providing expertise to develop and deliver a training programme at the newly established post-graduate Tanzania Law School in Dar es Salaam.

Approximately 600 students have enrolled at the Law School. However, full time lecturers and other teaching resources have not been available to the students. ILP were approached and have agreed to draft and teach various modules on the course for the next two to three years, while at the same time working with local teachers in a 'training of trainers' style capacity.

ILP partnered up with BHRC in October 2009. BHRC subsequently agreed to lead on developing and delivering the 'Criminal Procedure and Practice' module.

It is expected that lectures for the BHRC-lead 'Criminal Procedure and Practice' module will begin in the latter half of 2010, with preparation of teaching materials taking place in the first half of 2010. Executive Committee members Brenda Campbell (Garden Court Chambers) and Theodora Christou (AIRE Centre) are coordinating these efforts.

3.2 Fact-finding missions

Kurdistan, Iraq

Throughout the course of 2008, BHRC continued to monitor the human rights situation of Kurds in Iraq. In conjunction with the Kurdish Human Rights Project (KHRP), BHRC conducted a series of fact-finding missions to Kurdistan, Northern Iraq throughout 2007 and finishing in early 2008. The aim of the missions was to gauge the development of the region, particularly in terms of its human rights structure. The missions interviewed civil society representatives, lawyers, politicians and religious leaders.

The overarching observation of the missions was that there is an enormous desire for the proper implementation of the human rights norms, accountability and the rule of law amongst government officials and civil society organisations. The missions, however, noted that more often than not this desire has yet to be translated into the serious investment of time and resources needed to make meaningful progress in these areas.

A report of the missions' findings and recommendations was published in July 2008.

Turkey

In May 2009, BHRC, in conjunction with the KHRP, organised a fact-finding mission to the Kurdish region of Turkey following reports of widespread detentions and investigations of pro-Kurdish politicians and activists in the aftermath of the March 2009 local elections. The mission travelled to the provinces of Şırnak, Siirt, Mardin, Batman and Diyarbakır, collecting information regarding impunity of state officials, women's access to justice and the climate for human rights defenders.

Concerns highlighted include the persistence of a culture of impunity among state officials responsible for human rights violations, widespread practice of violence against

women, lack of mechanisms for protection and redress for victims of violence, and systematic harassment of human rights defenders. Underlying those issues is the lack of implementation of the many legal instruments for the protection of human rights.

The fact-finding mission report places these findings in the context of Turkey's international human rights obligations and offers concrete recommendations to the Turkish government, the EU, and civil society to address those concerns.

A report of the mission's findings and recommendations was published in August 2009.

Iraq

In August 2009, BHRC in conjunction with the KHRP published a report detailing the ways in which ongoing cross-border operations in northern Iraq have detrimentally affected the lives of the inhabitants of the region. This includes loss of life and debilitating injury, loss of livelihood and property, the destruction of traditional village modes of life and the traumatising of the affected communities, especially children.

The report sets a number of recommendations to the Governments of Iraq, Turkey and Iran and the Kurdistan Regional Government. This includes recognising their obligations under international humanitarian law.

Cuba

In September 2009, BHRC undertook a fact-finding mission to Cuba to investigate human rights concerns, specifically to focus on the effects of the trade embargo.

The members of the delegation included Mark Muller QC (BHRC Chairman, Garden Court Chambers) and Ajanta Kaza (1 Pump Court). A report of the mission's findings will be published in 2010.



Mark Muller QC and Ajanta Kaza with the British Ambassador, Dianna Melrose and Second Secretary Political, Chris Stimpson (Havana, September 2009)

Zimbabwe

BHRC has continued to raise the issue of maintenance of the rule of law in Zimbabwe, often acting in conjunction with the Bar Council.

During the last week of October 2009, BHRC facilitated a fact-finding mission to Zimbabwe, focusing on the new Global Political Agreement (GPA) which was signed in September 2008. The aim of the mission was to examine whether the rule of law has improved since the new Unity Government was formed. Members of the delegation included Desmond Browne QC (Chairman of the Bar Council), Mohamed Husain (President of the Commonwealth Lawyers' Association), Mark Muller QC (Chairman of BHRC, Garden Court Chambers), Andrew Moran (Serle Court), Ijeoma Omambala (International Committee Bar Council, Old Square Chambers), Philippe De Jaegere, Hans Gaasbbeeck and Lara Deramaix (representatives of *Avocats Sans Frontières*) and Jacqueline Macalesher (BHRC Project Coordinator).



Zimbabwe Supreme Court – L-R: Mark Muller QC, Desmond Browne QC, Mohamed Husain, Philippe De Jaegere, Andrew Moran, Hans Gaasbbeeck and Lara Deramaix (Harare, October 2009)

While in Zimbabwe, the members of the mission met with Morgan Tsvangirai (the Prime Minister); Senator David Coltart (the Minister of Education, Sport, Arts and Culture); Eric Matinenga (the Minister for Constitutional and Parliamentary Affairs); former senior judges; senior civil servants; Mark Canning (the British Ambassador to Zimbabwe); Xavier Machel (Head of the Delegation of the European Union to Zimbabwe); Josephat Tshuma (the President of the Law Society of Zimbabwe); members of the legal profession in Harare, Mutare and Bulawayo; representatives of the Law Faculty of the University of Zimbabwe; representatives of the Legal Resources Foundation; representatives of Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights; representatives of the Crisis Coalition; representatives of the National Constitutional Assembly; Rajiv Bendre OBE (the Director of the British Council), journalists and doctors.



Delegation meets Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai: L-R – Hans Gaasbeek, Philippe De Jaegere, Lara Deramaix, Mark Muller QC, Morgan Tsvangirai, Desmond Browne QC, Jacqueline Macalesher and Ijeoma Omambala (Harare, October 2009)

The overwhelming weight of the reports the mission received from those to whom it spoke in Zimbabwe was to the effect that matters relating to rule of law issues had not improved in the course of the year since the signing of the GPA. The mission, however, noted that those involved in the political process underpinning the GPA remain determinedly more up-beat about the country's ability to eventually overcome its political, economic and social problems within the medium term.



Orphanage outside Harare (December 2009)

With that disposition in mind, the mission also noted that notwithstanding the appalling systematic assault upon the rule of law by the ruling elite over the last few years, the skeletal infrastructure underpinning the rule of law continues to remain in nascent existence within Zimbabwe, and is capable of being resurrected with appropriate international support provided democratic reform is permitted to occur. It is a testament to the commitment and bravery of Zimbabwe's Law Society, lawyers, retired judges, and civic and human rights defenders that this remains the case.



Delegation meets human rights lawyer Beatrice Mtetwe and journalist Jan Raath: L-R – Mark Muller QC, Beatrice Mtetwe, Desmond Browne QC, Mohamed Husain, Andrew Moran, Jan Raath and Ijeoma Omambala (Harare, October 2009)

A report of the mission's findings and recommendations was published in June 2010 and available on the BHRC's website: <http://www.barhumanrights.org.uk/reports>.

Mexico

Through our partner organisation Peace Brigades International (PBI), BHRC has in recent years built-up contacts with lawyers and legal organisations in the states of Guerrero and Oaxaca, Mexico. BHRC has provided them with support and solidarity for the human rights work they engage in. Through these links, BHRC facilitated and lead an international delegation of human rights lawyers to Mexico between 26 November and 4 December 2009.

The purpose of the delegation was to carry out an independent and impartial investigation into the rule of law in the states of Guerrero and Oaxaca. In particular it focused on the treatment of lawyers and human rights defenders who work to protect the civil rights of indigenous people and other minority groups.



Lawyers at the Tlachinollan Human Rights Centre, Tlapa, Guerrero (December 2009)

Members of the delegation included representatives of the Bar Council, the Law Society, Avocats Sans Frontières, as well as lawyers representing Canada, Germany and the USA.

BHRC hoped that the delegation would also demonstrate international support and encouragement toward members of their own profession in Guerrero and Oaxaca.

Meetings were held with the Federal Ministry of Interior, the Federal Attorney-General's Office, the Supreme Court, the National Commission for Human Rights, and state and municipal officials in Guerrero and Oaxaca. The delegation also met with the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, the British Embassy, and local lawyers and human rights defenders in Mexico City, Guerrero and Oaxaca.



Oaxaca Human Rights Commission – L-R: Jacqueline Macalesher (BHRC), Heriberto Garcia (President of Oaxaca Human Rights Commission) and Nigel Dodds (Law Society) (December 2009, Oaxaca)

While Mexico faces considerable challenges, including very serious problems with organised crime, insecurity, extensive poverty and social inequality, members of the delegation were encouraged by the positive commitments of the Mexican Republic to implement human rights policies. However, cultural and institutional obstacles within the justice and public security systems are undermining the government's ability to address human rights violations and impunity.

The members of the delegation have serious concerns that the institutional failings at all levels are predominantly affecting members of Mexican society who are the poorest and most vulnerable, including the local indigenous population and human rights defenders. These concerns were evidenced by impunity in cases of alleged rape, forced disappearances, extra-judicial killings and torture. This is compounded by a failure to adequately investigate these matters by independent and impartial means.

A full report of the delegations findings was published in July 2010 and is available on the BHRC's website: <http://www.barhumanrights.org.uk/reports>.



Press Conference L-R: Cara Gibbons (Lawyer, Canada), Ajanta Kaza (1 Pump Court, UK), Adam Hiddleston (3 Paper Buildings, UK), John No (Lawyer, Canada), Nigel Dodds (Law Society, UK), Kay Bridger-Riley (Lawyer, USA)

3.3 Trial observations

Turkey

Throughout the course of 2008 and 2009, BHRC has continued to monitor the human rights situation in Turkey and its compliance under the EU Turkish accession process. BHRC, in conjunction with the KHRP have sent a number of barristers to observe trials brought against writers and human rights activists.

Persecuting publishers, stifling debate: freedom of expression in Turkey

In February 2008, BHRC and KHRP sent a mission to Turkey to observe the final hearing of the trial of Ahmet Önal, the owner of Pêrî Publishing House in Istanbul. The charges against him related to 'disseminating propaganda for the PKK/Kongra Gel terror organisation'. The dissemination was alleged to have taken place in a book he published about the diaspora Kurds. The offending paragraphs deal with the role and influence of the PKK amongst Kurds in the former Soviet Union. The 'offence' of publishing the book occurred in November 2005 and has taken over two years to get to the final hearing stage for decision.

In general the trial observation found that the situation in Turkey for anyone involved in the media or press was repressive when delving into certain subjects. Individuals often face trial on numerous charges simply by doing their job and exercising their right to freedom of expression.

The Court ordered the acquittal of Ahmet Önal. It was identified that the presence of trial observers was significant in the outcome of the case.

A report of the trial observation was published in May 2008.

The death of Engin Çeber: prosecuting torture and ill-treatment within the Turkish detention system

In March 2009, BHRC and KHRP sent a mission to Istanbul to observe the fourth day in the criminal trial of 60 co-defendants charged in connection with the case of Engin Çeber, a political activist who is alleged to have suffered a brain haemorrhage and died as result of being severely beaten in custody in October 2008.

In recent years violations of this kind have continued to be reported across the length and breadth of the country by national and international NGOs.

The situation has led to a large number of cases in which the ECtHR has found Turkey in violation of Article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights, which prohibits torture and inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment. Despite such rulings, Turkey has generally failed to implement the Court's judgments effectively. The case of Engin Çeber is marked by the then Turkish Justice Minister Mehmet Ali Şahin appearing to acknowledge wrongdoing on the part of the security forces by issuing a formal apology to his family, and also by the unprecedented number of suspects brought before the courts.

A report of the trial observation was published in June 2009.

Occupied Palestinian Territory

BHRC Project Coordinator Jacqueline Macalesher and BHRC Intern Andrew Sanger attended the Ofer Military Court, near the West Bank city of Ramallah, in December 2008 at the request of local NGO Defence for Children International (DCI). Local lawyers explained that the presence of international observers led the prosecuting authorities and the presiding judge to behave in a more professional manner with them and with their clients.

Repeated and ongoing requests for BHRC volunteers to observe trials reinforced feedback about the perceived usefulness of such trial observations.



Hebron (Andrew Sanger, December 2008)

Bahrain

In March 2009, BHRC undertook a mission to observe the hearing of three human rights defenders (Mr Hassan Mashaima, Dr Abdul-Jalil Al-Singace and Mr Mohammed Habib Amuqdad, representatives of the Human Rights Committee of the Movement of Civil Liberties and Democracy Movement (HAQ)) who were accused of 'terror' related activities in the Kingdom of Bahrain. The three defendants appear to have been targeted as a result of their legitimate work within the field of human rights.

The case concerned violations of international human rights standards, including abuse of due process during the arrest and detention of the co-defendants, and allegations of torture.

On 11 April 2009, a royal pardon was issued and all defendants were released from prison.

BHRC published a report of the trial observation, calling on the Kingdom of Bahrain to investigate allegations of torture, to assure that all legitimate prosecutions are instituted

in accordance with due process, and immediately and unconditionally to put an end to all acts of harassment and imprisonment of human rights defenders in Bahrain where they are exercising their right to free speech.

Whilst in Bahrain, BHRC Executive Committee member Kirsty Brimelow (Doughty Street Chambers) also met with friends and relatives of the defendants.



Kirsty Brimelow meeting with friends and relatives of the defendants before the trial observation. All defendants were subsequently pardoned.

3.4 Case support

Malawi

In 2009, BHRC worked with the Malawi Law Society, the Malawi Legal Aid Department, the Malawi Human Rights Commission (MHRC) and other select Malawian lawyers to develop a project providing case support assistance in public interest cases.

The BHRC aims to establish a register of practising barristers from England and Wales experienced in various specialist areas of human rights law and public interest cases, willing and able to undertake pro bono casework support on selected public interest cases in Malawi.

Depending on the specific needs of the case, the barrister will carry out case support by:

- undertaking research on matters of law;
- providing advice;
- identifying relevant case authorities; and
- drafting/reviewing court submissions and legal opinions.

Legal authorities will include UK and/or Commonwealth precedents, international law, soft law and other academic materials. It is envisaged that a large part of the assistance will be provided via email, fax or phone.

The following public interest areas have been identified as areas for immediate support:

- Children's rights
- Women's rights
- Rights for people with HIV/AIDS
- Fair trial rights
- Prisoners' rights
- Death penalty cases
- Housing / land rights
- Labour and employment rights
- Immigration

- Freedom of expression and freedom of information
- Freedom of association
- Discrimination
- Actions against the police

The first case under this project came in early 2010.

Depending on the success of the Malawi Public Interest Case Support (“PICS”) project, it is hoped that similar PICS projects can be established in countries that would benefit from assistance by barristers from England and Wales.

Jamaica

BHRC continues to work with lawyers in Jamaica providing advice on specific cases. A scheme of joint training with the Crown Prosecution Service in Jamaica is being advanced for late 2010.

3.5 International litigation unit

Pakistan

In 2008, BHRC together with Solicitors International Human Rights Group (SIHRG) submitted an amicus curiae brief to the Supreme Court of Pakistan in relation to the removal from office of the Chief Justice of Pakistan, Mr Justice Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry.

The amicus brief focused on issues regarding the impartiality of judges and the independence of the judiciary as being central to the rule of law.

A copy of the amicus brief can be found on the BHRC’s website: <http://www.barhumanrights.org.uk/reports>.

European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR)

In April 2009 BHRC, along with the European Rights Advocacy Centre, Human Rights Watch, Interights, and the International Federation for Human Rights submitted a legal intervention to the ECtHR in the case of *Al-Skeini and Others v. the UK*.

The Interveners aimed to provide the Court with information on the legal standards relating to extraterritorial application of human rights law, and an overview of instances of extraterritorial application of human rights law in the circumstances of control, authority or power over the person in the practice of international courts and bodies.

These comments examined the jurisprudence of the Court in light of other international and comparative standards, including those enshrined in regional instruments such as the American Convention on Human Rights and the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man, the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights, as well as applicable rules of public international law and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR).

In May 2009 BHRC, along with the British Irish Rights Watch, the European Rights Advocacy Centre, Human Rights Watch, the International Commission of Jurists, the International Federation for Human Rights, Justice, Liberty and Redress submitted a legal intervention to the ECtHR in the case of *Al-Saadoon and Mufdhi v. the UK*.

The intervention analysed three important issues of principle raised by the case:

1. the nature and extent of extra-territorial jurisdiction under the European Convention;
2. the rules and principles applicable where obligations under the Convention conflict with other obligations under international law; and
3. the duty to comply with interim measures indicated by the Court under Rule 39 of the Rules of Court.

The Interveners' submissions considered these issues with reference to principles of international law and jurisprudence of other international and regional tribunals, with a view to providing the Court with an international legal context in which to consider the matters before it.

A copy of the two interventions can be found on the BHRC's website: <http://www.barhumanrights.org.uk/reports>.

Russia and Georgia

During 2008 and 2009, BHRC and EHRAC continued to develop its litigation work before the ECtHR in relation to Russia and Georgia. Considerable success was achieved during this period. By the end of 2009, BHRC and EHRAC were working on around 250 cases against Russia and Georgia on behalf of over 850 applicants and victims. The issues raised in these cases are extremely broad, including the right to life, torture, freedom of expression and association, ethnic discrimination, sexual violence, environmental pollution and protection of property.

The Court handed down a total of 23 judgments finding Russia in violation of the ECHR in cases brought by BHRC and EHRAC. These included a number of Chechen cases concerning gross human rights violations such as disappearances and extrajudicial execution. Among the other judgments, *Ryabikin v Russia* (No. 8320/04) 19.6.2008, regarding extradition, was the first European Court case to establish that diplomatic assurances given by Turkmenistan are not sufficient to satisfy international human rights standards on the prohibition of torture where compliance cannot effectively be monitored. In a ruling by the Grand Chamber in *Zolotukhin v Russia* (No. 14939/03) 10.2.09, the Court re-examined its approach to 'double jeopardy' cases (the prohibition on prosecuting someone more than once in relation to the same offence) and formulated a new interpretation of what constitutes the "same offence".

2008 and 2009 also saw significant work in collaboration with one of our Georgian partners, the Georgian Young Lawyers' Association (GYLA), in preparing 32 groups of applications to the ECtHR on behalf of 134 Georgian citizens who allege that Russia committed a number of serious violations of the ECHR during the August 2008 armed conflict between Russia and Georgia. The applications, which originate from Gori and the surrounding villages including a number of villages within South Ossetia and Tskhinvali, primarily concern instances of shelling and air attacks on villages, allegedly by Russian armed forces, resulting in the destruction of property and the killing or injuring of civilians and the deliberate burning and looting of villagers' houses by Russian soldiers or Ossetian militia. These cases raise important questions about the applicability of the ECHR to an armed conflict situation, and they will also test the 'reach' of the ECHR – the applicants are asking the Court to find Russia responsible for violations perpetrated by its armed forces outside Russian territory and to decide that Russia was responsible both for the actions of its armed forces and of Ossetian militia.

3.6 Child Rights Unit



In autumn 2009, the BHRC established a Child Rights Unit (CRU). The aim of the CRU is to provide direct legal assistance to NGOs and grass roots organisations on the protection of child rights addressed by the core international conventions and associated optional protocols. These include:

- The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989);
- UN Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict (2000); and
- UN Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography (2000).

Assistance can include the preparation of legal materials to make human rights claims at the domestic, regional or international level; raising awareness in the legal community

on these issues through co-hosting events and conferences; drafting statements and “urgent action” interventions; and delivering training.

Nigeria

Under the CRU, throughout 2009 BHRC has been working with a Lancaster-based charity Stepping Stones Nigeria (SSN). SSN work to protect the rights of children in Nigeria who have been abandoned and tortured due to the stigmatisation of being a “witch” or “wizard”. BHRC has assisted SSN in providing specific advice of domestic cases pending in relation to SSN’s work in Nigeria.

One of the outputs of this project has been to produce domestic legislation (the Child Rights Law of Akwa Ibom 2008) in “child-friendly” language, published in autumn 2010.

In 2010, the BHRC-CRU aims to provide training in child rights to lawyers and the judiciary in Akwa Ibom state, Nigeria.

3.7 Meetings with human rights lawyers

Chinese lawyers

On 5 February 2009, BHRC met “rights defending” Chinese lawyers to discuss how to overcome difficulties in practising human rights in China, specifically combating torture. The meeting was facilitated by the Great Britain-China Centre in London.

Turkish lawyers

In April and May 2009, BHRC met with a group of lawyers from Turkey. This included representatives of the Ankara NGO “Law and Life”. The aim of the meeting was to discuss in an open forum work on the rule of law and human rights in Turkey. The meetings were facilitated by Oxford Vision.

Chapter 4: Conferences

Bar Conference 2008

On 1 November 2008, BHRC presented a workshop entitled “From Guantanamo Bay to Zimbabwe: the Bar making a difference”.

The workshop was moderated by Mark Muller QC (BHRC Chair, Garden Court Chambers) with the panellists including Senator David Coltart (Shadow Justice Minister for the MDC, Zimbabwe), Edward Fitzgerald CBE QC (Doughty Street Chambers), Baroness Helena Kennedy QC (Doughty Street Chambers) and Joe Hingston (Reprieve Investigator).

Bar Conference 2009

On 7 November 2009, BHRC presented a workshop entitled “Regional and International Access to Justice: Building Norms and Jurisprudence”.

The workshop was moderated by Mark Muller QC (BHRC Chair, Garden Court Chambers) with the panellists including Sir Judge Adrian Fulford QC (President of Trial Division, International Criminal Court), Clare Ovey (Head of a Legal Division European Court of Human Rights), and Sonya Sceats (International Law Associate, Chatham House).



- *Bar Conference 2009 L-R: Mark Muller QC, Sir Judge Adrian Fulford QC and Sonya Sceats*

EU Turkey Civic Commission (EUTCC)

In January 2008 and January 2009, BHRC co-hosted the 4th and 5th International Conference on EU, Turkey and the Kurds, respectively, in Brussels alongside the EU Turkey Civic Commission (EUTCC). The meetings called upon the EU to strongly and publicly support all EU requirements concerning democratic and legal reform within Turkey. BHRC was represented by Chairman Mark Muller QC at these events.

Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EMHRN)

BHRC is a member of the EMHRN Working Group on Justice. During 2008 and 2009, BHRC Vice-chair Kirsty Brimelow attended workshop meetings in Istanbul, Brussels and Paris.

Other conferences with BHRC involvement

Throughout 2008 and 2009, BHRC members have also participated in conferences related to freedom of expression; torture; international human rights law; post conflict reconstruction; and access to justice.

Chapter 5: BHRC seminars and workshops

During 2008 and 2009, BHRC held 17 public meetings. BHRC would like to sincerely thank all those speakers who addressed BHRC members over the past two years.

BHRC would also like to thank Garden Court Chambers who provided seminar facilities for 13 of these meetings at no cost to BHRC.

2008 Meetings

February

“Pakistan and Democratic Transition”

Key note address by Asma Jahangir (Chair of the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan, previous UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief and previous UN Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial, Arbitrary and Summary Executions).

- Meeting held jointly: BHRC and Solicitors International Human Rights Group (SIHRG)

February

“The Death Penalty Successes, Failures and The Future”

Addresses by Peter Carter QC (18 Red Lion Court), John Blain (Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer) and Anna Morris (Reprieve Investigator, Garden Court Chambers).

March

“Kenya and Russia”

Addresses by Anne Kariithi (Garden Court Chambers) and Yelena Liptser (Moscow advocate).

April

“Care Highway International”

Addresses by Christopher Morrison (Care Highway International) and Chris Gaia (Care Highway UK).

May

“Torture (Damages) Bill”

Keynote address by Kevin Laue (Redress).

June

“Afghanistan”

Addresses by BHRC delegation to Afghanistan (Mark Muller QC, Samantha Knights, Sudhanshu Swaroop and Naina Patel); Dominic O’Reilly (UK Director of Afghanaid); and Francis Davis (Senior Prosecutions Advisor, British Embassy, Kabul).

September

“Launch of BHRC 2006-2007 Biennial Report”

Chaired by Mark Muller QC.

November

“Juvenile Injustice: Child Detainees in Israeli Military Tribunals and Prisons”

Keynote addresses by Gerard Horton and Khaled Quzmar (Defence of the Child International-Palestine section).

- Meeting held jointly: BHRC, Lawyers for Palestinian Human Rights (LPHR) and Solicitors’ International Human Rights Group (SIHRG).

December

“Defending Freedom of Expression”

Keynote address by Caroline McCormick (Executive Director, International PEN).

December

“An Afghan evening at the Foreign & Commonwealth Office” with Jason Burke, writer and The Observer’s chief foreign correspondent on the current situation in Afghanistan.

- Meeting held jointly: BHRC and Afghanaid.

2009 Meetings

January

“Fixing Failed States: The Role of Lawyers”

Keynote address by Clare Lockhart (Institute for State Effectiveness, and Co-Author of “Fixing Failed States”). Panel: Philippe Leroux-Martin (Head of Legal Unit, International Civilian Office/European Union Special Representative, Kosovo), Alex Wilks (former International Bar Association Legal Specialist for Afghanistan), Tinoziva Bere (Law Society of Zimbabwe).

- Meeting held jointly: BHRC and the Law Society of England & Wales.

March

“Colombia”

Addresses by Kirsty Brimelow (BHRC Vice-chair, Doughty Street Chambers), Mark Cunningham QC (Maitland Chambers) and Louise Winstanley (Peace Brigades International).

April

“The Language Question: Influence on the Kurdish Question in Turkey 2007-2009”

Addresses by Professor Robert Olson (University of Kentucky) and Kerim Yildiz (KHRP).

- Meeting held jointly: BHRC and Peace in Kurdistan Campaign

May

“Spies, Lies and the War on Terror”

Addresses by Jonathan Bloch (Liberal Democrat Councillor), Louise Christian (Liberty), Nafeez Mosaddeq Ahmed (Institute for Policy Research and Development) and Ben Hayes (Statewatch).

- Meeting held jointly: BHRC and Campaign Against Criminalising Communities (CAMPACC).

June

“Sri Lanka: time for reform?”

Addresses by Gareth Peirce (civil rights solicitor with Birnberg Peirce and Partners), on her recent case defending the Head of the British Tamil Tigers Association; Jan Jananayagam (human rights activist and UK Spokesperson for Tamils Against Genocide) and Charu Hogg (Child Soldiers Coalition and Chatham House (previous Sri Lanka researcher for Human Rights Watch)).

September

“International child exploitation: developing strategic litigation”, includes a viewing of Dispatches programme ‘Saving Africa’s Witch Children’

Addresses by Gary Foxcroft (Executive Director, Stepping Stones Nigeria) and Louise Meincke (Consortium for Street Children). Including an open discussion on how BHRC can develop a more strategic programme of work to protect children against exploitation and other forms of human rights abuse led by Hugh Davies (3 Raymond Buildings).

November

“Colombia: The Struggle for Justice”

Addresses by Martin Sandoval (Head of the Permanent Committee for Human Rights, Colombia), Kim Sheridan MP, Sandra Osborne MP, Andy Love MP and Kirsty Brimelow (BHRC Vice-chair, Doughty Street Chambers).

- Meeting held jointly: BHRC and the Parliamentary Friends of Colombia Group.

Chapter 6: Press releases, joint statements, “urgent action” interventions and demonstrations

Throughout 2008 and 2009, BHRC issued press releases and “urgent action” interventions regarding the protection of human rights defenders and the promotion of human rights norms and standards in relation to situations in Algeria, Bahrain, Colombia, Iran, Iraq, Israel/occupied Palestinian Territory, Kenya, Mexico, Nepal, Nigeria, Russia, Singapore, USA and Zimbabwe.

In December 2009, BHRC, along with 155 other European NGOs, submitted a joint statement on the reform of the European Court of Human Rights which called for the

enhanced respect for human rights by the 47 members of the Council of Europe.

In January and June 2008, BHRC jointly organised demonstrations with the Campaign Against Martial Law in Pakistan. The demonstrations were in support of the reinstatement of the judiciary in Pakistan following their unlawful removal by the military regime in November 2007. Demonstrations were held outside Downing Street and the Pakistan High Commission, London.



The Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Appendix A: Bar Human Rights Executive Committee Members 2008-2009

2008

Chair: Mark Muller QC (Garden Court Chambers)

Vice-Chair: Tim Otty QC (20 Essex Street)

Treasurer: Brendan Finucane (23 Essex Street)

Nadeem Ahmad (5 Essex Court)

Zubair Ahmad (2 Hare Court)

Professor Bill Bowring (Birkbeck College)

Kirsty Brimelow (Doughty Street Chambers)

Blinne Ní Ghrálaigh (Matrix Chambers)

Alexander Glassbrook (1 Temple Gardens)

Edward Grieves (Garden Court Chambers)

Samantha Knights (Matrix Chambers)

Naina Patel (Blackstone Chambers)

Sudhanshu Swaroop (20 Essex Street)

* BHRC Project Coordinators: Naoimh Hughes & Jacqueline Macalesher

* BHRC intern: Andrew Sanger

2009

Chair: Mark Muller QC (Garden Court Chambers)

Vice-Chairs: Tim Otty QC (20 Essex Street) and Kirsty Brimelow (Doughty Street Chambers)

Treasurer: Brendan Finucane (23 Essex Street) and Michael Ivers (Garden Court Chambers)

Zubair Ahmad (2 Hare Court)

Professor Bill Bowring (Birkbeck College)

Brenda Campbell (Garden Court Chambers)

Theodora Christou (AIRE Centre)

Blinne Ní Ghrálaigh (Matrix Chambers)

Alexander Glassbrook (1 Temple Gardens)

Edward Grieves (Garden Court Chambers)

Samantha Knights (Matrix Chambers)

Naina Patel (Blackstone Chambers)

Sudhanshu Swaroop (20 Essex Street)

* BHRC Project Coordinator: Jacqueline Macalesher

* BHRC interns: Priscilla Dudhia & Andrew Sanger



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