



HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH | ANNUAL REPORT 2002





ANNUAL REPORT 2002

H U M A N  
R I G H T S  
W A T C H



Human Rights Watch is dedicated to protecting the human rights of people around the world. We stand with victims and activists to bring offenders to justice, to prevent discrimination, to uphold political freedom and to protect people from inhumane conduct in wartime. We investigate and expose human rights violations and hold abusers accountable. We challenge governments and those holding power to end abusive practices and respect international human rights law. We enlist the public and the international community to support the cause of human rights for all.

*(cover) An elderly man carries his grandson 25 kilometers to the nearest hospital. Afghanistan, October 2001.*

*(left) These women teachers returned to work in Kabul after years of the Taliban barring them from teaching. Afghanistan, April 2002.*

On the morning of September 11, 2001, we were leading a board meeting in Human Rights Watch's conference room. The south-facing windows on that crisp, clear day provided a glorious – and then horrifying – view of the World Trade Center. We watched in shock as two airplanes crashed into the downtown buildings.

As human rights advocates, we have grown accustomed to the immense cruelty caused by some governments, rebel groups, and other perpetrators of violence, discrimination, and neglect. We hear on a regular basis the testimony of victims of human rights abuse. But nothing could have prepared us for witnessing firsthand, as we did that morning, the mass murder of thousands of innocent people – our friends, relatives, and neighbors.

Informed by twenty-four years of experience in exposing, denouncing, and ending human rights abuse, Human Rights Watch's work in the aftermath of the attacks could not have been more important. Human rights issues took center stage, capturing the interest of the general public and occupying a major place in mainstream discourse. Human rights analysis helped to explain not only that the September 11 attacks were crimes against humanity but also the political conditions that tend to breed terrorism and the appropriate limits on the governmental response.

Throughout the year, we have reiterated the imperative that the fight against terror must be a fight for human rights. A fundamental tenet of the human rights cause is that civilians should never be deliberately killed or abused, regardless of the rationale. Only by building a culture that rejects violent attacks on civilians will we discourage terrorism and its recruits.

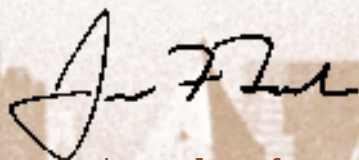
To that end, we made a special effort to expose the autocratic policies of a number of governments, particularly in the Middle East. Their suppression of free expression and association and their closing off of options for peaceful political change are what lead some citizens to transform their grievances into violence. We exerted pressure on governments such as Russia, China, and Uzbekistan that waved the banner of the "war against terrorism" as a new pretext for cracking down on legitimate political dissent. We called for the protection of the rights of refugees and migrants in Europe at a time when those disfavored populations were arbitrarily and unfairly equated with terrorists.

In the United States, when the Bush administration proposed special military tribunals to try non-citizens accused of terrorist acts, Human Rights Watch led the campaign that convinced the administration to avoid the most serious due-process violations. Human Rights Watch played a central role in combating other domestic rights restrictions and in pressing the administration to give the detainees held at Guantánamo their full rights under the Geneva Conventions.

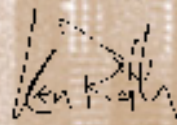
After the U.S.-led military action in Afghanistan, Human Rights Watch sent rotating teams of researchers there not only to scrutinize the bombing campaign but also to investigate continuing restrictions on the rights of women, refugees, and ethnic minorities and to highlight the need for enhanced security and commitment to the rule of law. With years of experience in reporting on human rights abuses in Afghanistan, our researchers were frequently called upon to explain the country's war-ridden history and to recommend policies that would save it from a return to that bleak and violent past.

We took a special moment to celebrate the inauguration of the International Criminal Court, a global tribunal for the worst human rights criminals that was activated on July 1, 2002. Human Rights Watch had worked for years to highlight the need for such a court. We have stressed the need to curb the impunity that has led so many leaders to think they could get away with mass murder. And we have helped to assemble the global coalition that today supports the court. At the same time, we have had to defend the court from a growing exceptionalism in Washington, where the Bush administration increasingly undervalues the importance of universally enforceable standards, even for the most heinous abuses.

At a time when emotions and partisanship too often dictate domestic and foreign policy worldwide, Human Rights Watch remains a voice of reason and objectivity. We continue to insist that a broad commitment to international human rights law is the surest way to create a world in which fewer will accept, or attempt, the crimes against humanity that marked September 11 or the atrocities that today still plague too many nations of our world.



JONATHAN FANTON, CHAIR



KENNETH ROTH, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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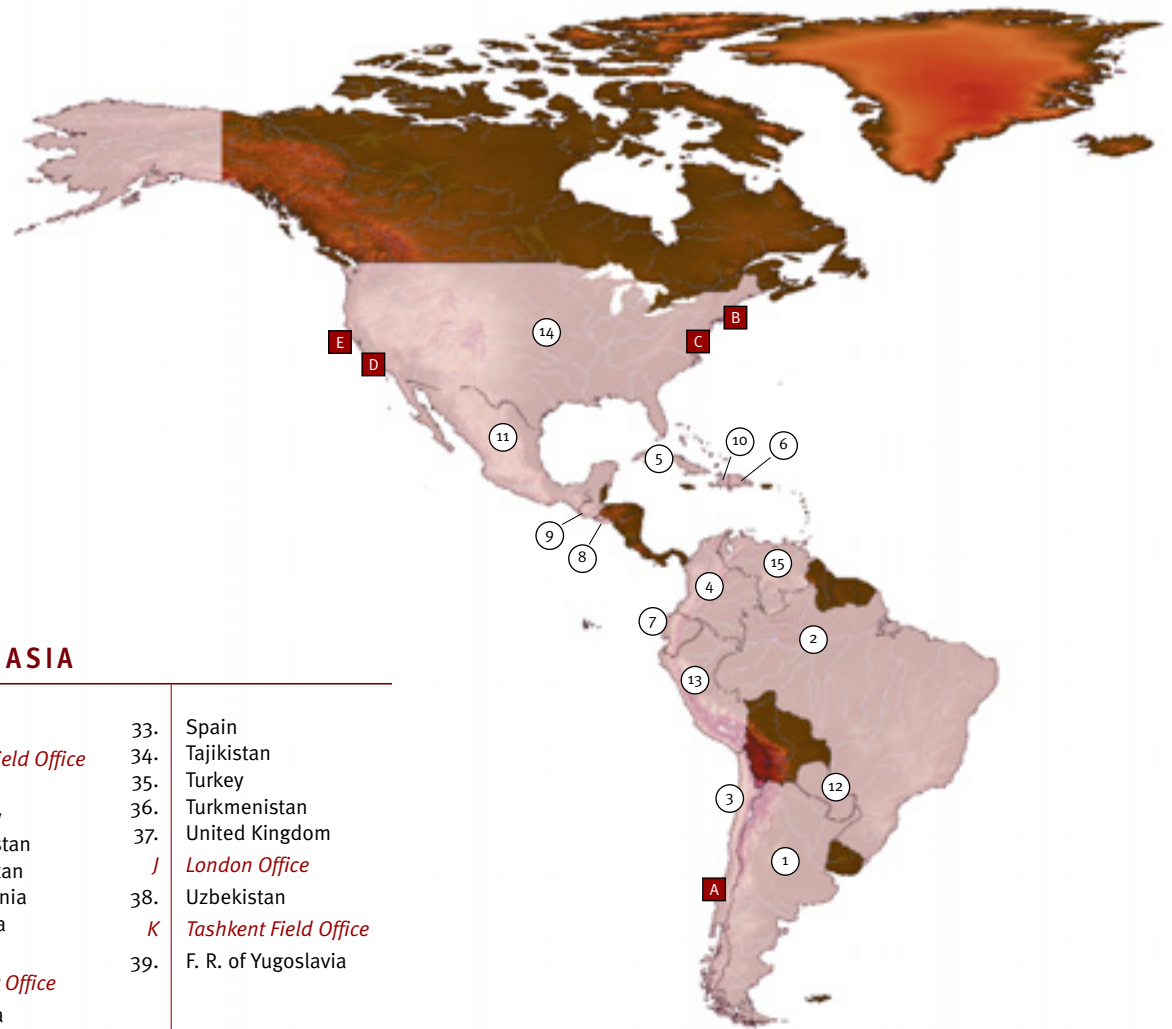
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*The destruction of the World Trade Center as seen from Human Rights Watch's office on Sept 11, 2001. The photograph was taken by staff member Fitzroy Hepkins.*

# COUNTRIES MONITORED

## AMERICAS

1. Argentina
2. Brazil
3. Chile
- A* *Santiago Field Office*
4. Colombia
5. Cuba
6. Dominican Republic
7. Ecuador
8. El Salvador
9. Guatemala
10. Haiti
11. Mexico
12. Paraguay
13. Peru
14. United States
- B* *New York Office*
- C* *Washington Office*
- D* *Los Angeles Office*
- E* *San Francisco Office*
15. Venezuela



## EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

- |                                 |                                      |                                       |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <i>F</i> <i>Brussels Office</i> | 24. Georgia                          | 33. Spain                             |
| <i>G</i> <i>Geneva Office</i>   | <i>H</i> <i>Tbilisi Field Office</i> | 34. Tajikistan                        |
| 16. Albania                     | 25. Greece                           | 35. Turkey                            |
| 17. Armenia                     | 26. Hungary                          | 36. Turkmenistan                      |
| 18. Azerbaijan                  | 27. Kazakhstan                       | 37. United Kingdom                    |
| 19. Belarus                     | 28. Kyrgyzstan                       | <i>J</i> <i>London Office</i>         |
| 20. Bosnia and<br>Hercegovina   | 29. Macedonia                        | 38. Uzbekistan                        |
| 21. Bulgaria                    | 30. Romania                          | <i>K</i> <i>Tashkent Field Office</i> |
| 22. Croatia                     | 31. Russia                           | 39. F. R. of Yugoslavia               |
| 23. Czech Republic              | <i>I</i> <i>Moscow Office</i>        |                                       |
|                                 | 32. Slovakia                         |                                       |

## AFRICA

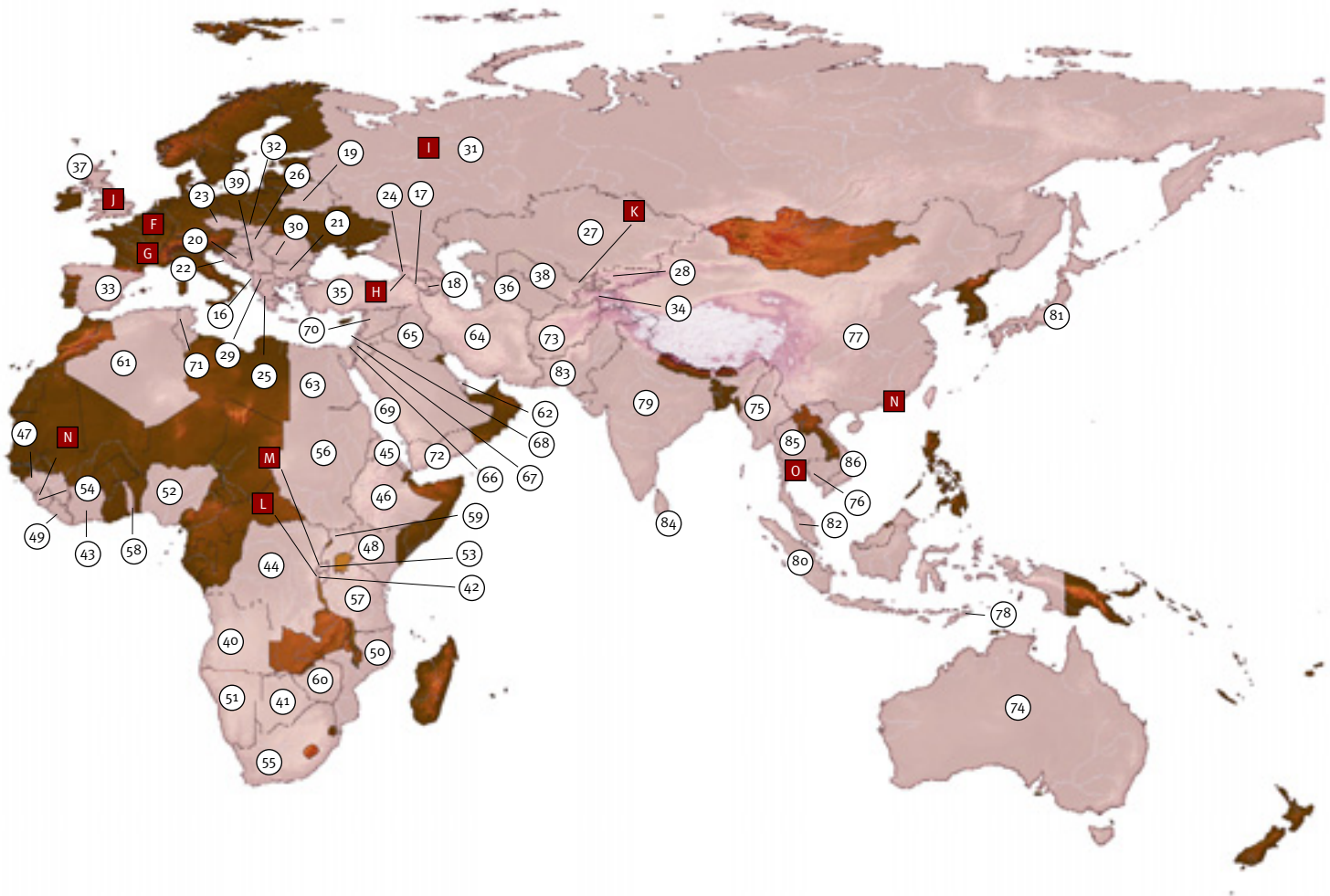
40.	Angola	51.	Namibia
41.	Botswana	52.	Nigeria
42.	Burundi	53.	Rwanda
<i>L</i>	<i>Bujumbura Field Office</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>Kigali Field Office</i>
43.	Cote d'Ivoire	54.	Sierra Leone
44.	D. R. of Congo	<i>N</i>	<i>Freetown Field Office</i>
45.	Eritrea	55.	South Africa
46.	Ethiopia	56.	Sudan
47.	Guinea	57.	Tanzania
48.	Kenya	58.	Togo
49.	Liberia	59.	Uganda
50.	Mozambique	60.	Zimbabwe

## MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA

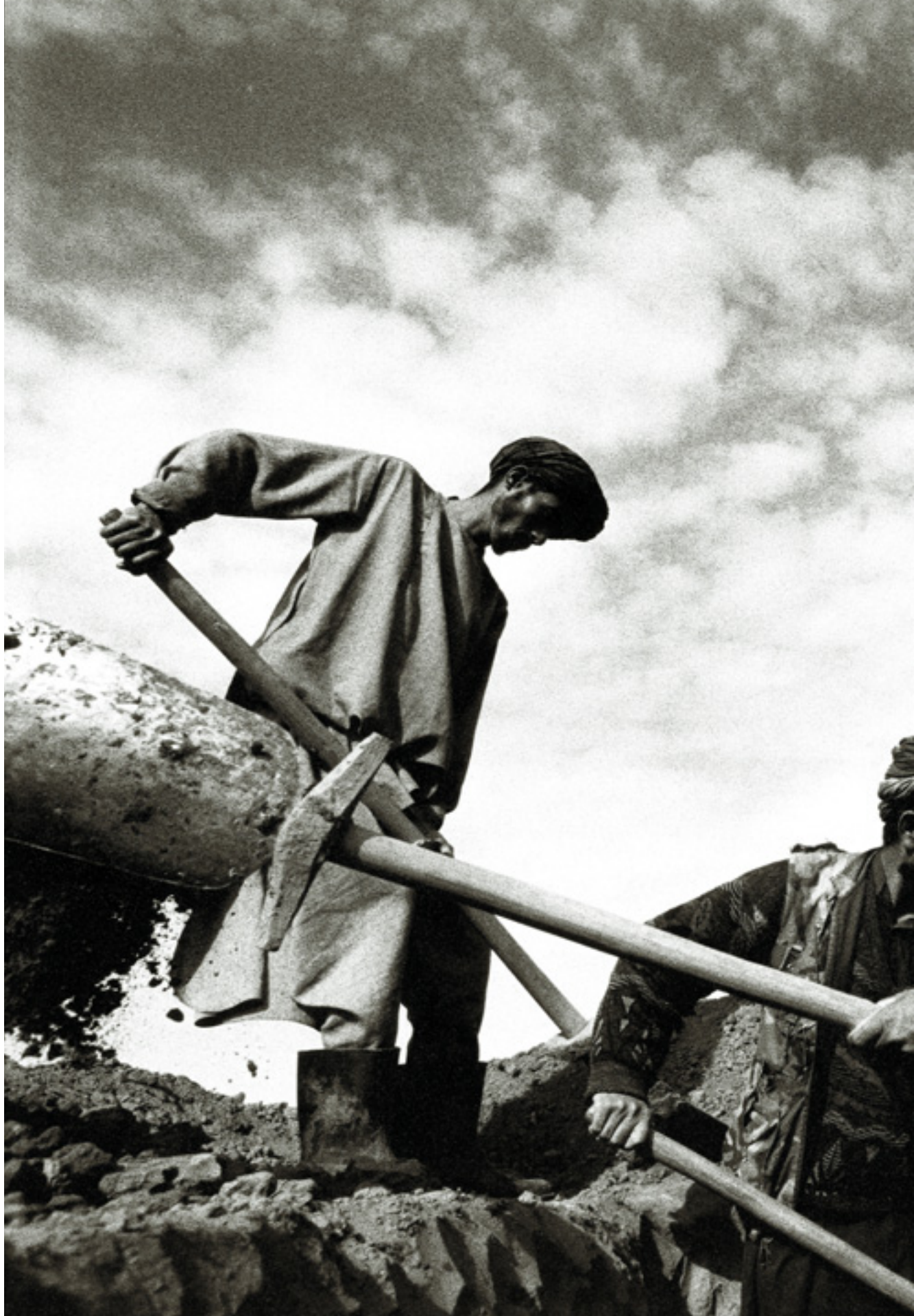
61.	Algeria
62.	Bahrain
63.	Egypt
64.	Iran
65.	Iraq
66.	Israel, the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, and Palestinian Authority territories
67.	Jordan
68.	Lebanon
69.	Saudi Arabia
70.	Syria
71.	Tunisia
72.	Yemen

## ASIA

73.	Afghanistan
74.	Australia
75.	Burma
76.	Cambodia
77.	China and Tibet
78.	East Timor
79.	India
80.	Indonesia
81.	Japan
82.	Malaysia
83.	Pakistan
84.	Sri Lanka
85.	Thailand
86.	Vietnam



*Afghans dig graves for loved ones who died in a camp for internally displaced people.*







ON MISSION IN AFGHANISTAN



ON MISSION IN AFGHANISTAN

When one of Afghanistan's most notorious warlords told his troops that Human Rights Watch researchers were "dangerous," we took it as a compliment. He was warning his troops about our unique ability to document human rights violations and bring them to the attention of the international community. We honed this ability through years of covering abuses in countries like Afghanistan, when its long-suffering citizens were largely forgotten by the rest of the world.

*Text continues on page 15.*

PHOTOS OF AFGHANISTAN TAKEN BY ZALMAÏ, 2001–2002.

TEXT WRITTEN BY HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH RESEARCHER SAM ZIA-ZARIFI.



*Child beggars sit in a cemetery in Kabul.*

ON MISSION IN AFGHANISTAN



*Victims of landmines walk 35 kilometers to the nearest hospital.*



*In many villages and cities throughout Afghanistan, women continue to wear the burqa for fear of reprisal by those in power.*

ON MISSION IN AFGHANISTAN



*An elderly man carries his grandson 25 kilometers to the nearest hospital.*



*A funeral is held in a displaced-persons camp for a man who died of injuries he sustained during a Taliban attack on his village.*

## ON MISSION IN AFGHANISTAN



*(top left) These women teachers returned to work in Kabul after years of the Taliban barring them from teaching.*

*(bottom left) A Northern Alliance soldier.*

*(top right) Children repair weapons in Kabul.*

*(bottom right) A woman holds her child in Kabul.*



*Continued from page 8.* On September 10, 2001, one day before the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, Human Rights Watch researchers returned from a month-long mission to investigate abuses of women's rights under the Taliban. It was our second mission to Afghanistan that summer; earlier, before Afghanistan had leapt into the news, we had investigated the Taliban's massacre of people from a minority ethnic group, the Hazaras. After September 11, Human Rights Watch was well placed to comment on the country's cruel recent history, particularly the terrible human rights abuses caused, and in turn perpetuated, by two decades of fighting and repression.

Following the U.S.-led military response against the Taliban, Human Rights Watch sent eleven researchers and consultants to Afghanistan to monitor the fighting, and perhaps more important, its aftermath. Our researchers worked throughout the country to document the impact of the war on the ordinary Afghans displaced by years of man-made and natural disasters.

Unfortunately, the Taliban's swift fall from power did not end the Afghans' misery. With much of the world focused on the transition to a new government, we warned the international community that, without enhanced security across Afghanistan, the warlords who had ruled much of the country before the Taliban would again assert their authority. In February and March 2002, our team of four researchers traveled widely through northern Afghanistan and, indeed, chronicled the campaign of beatings, lootings, and sexual violence aimed against the Pashtuns – the ethnic group from which most of the Taliban had sprung. We also exposed the continuing intimidation of women and girls by reactionary forces trying to prevent them from returning to schools and the workplace.

A Human Rights Watch mission to southern Afghanistan in May uncovered numerous instances of warlords using threats, beatings, imprisonment, and intimidation of voters and delegates to subvert the election of a traditional assembly designed to return civilian rule to the country. Our researchers followed this process to Kabul, where the assembly finally met. It symbolized the best and worst of Afghanistan – hundreds of hopeful delegates committed to a peaceful, pluralistic Afghanistan whose efforts were effectively stymied by regional warlords intent on maintaining their hold on power and an international community unwilling to challenge them.

The final outcome of this confrontation remains unclear. But what is certain is that, to secure a safer and more dignified future for Afghans and other oppressed people, Human Rights Watch has no choice but to remain "dangerous" to those who abuse their power.

**SAM ZIA-ZARIFI**

*Carriages of a train carrying Hindu activists were set on fire in Godhra on February 27, 2002. Fifty-eight people were killed, many of them women and children.*

*(right) Mohammed Mahrukh Pathan with his eight-year-old daughter, Aishya, stay in a school with hundreds of other Muslims displaced from their homes after communal violence in Ahmedabad, Gujarat in February and March 2002. Aishya was severely burned in the attacks.*

## INDIA: STATE RESPONSIBILITY FOR MASSACRES IN GUJARAT



# When mob violence between Hindus and Muslims took nearly two thousand lives in the Indian state of Gujarat in late February and early March of 2002, state and national governments, as well as the international media, portrayed the massacres as “spontaneous rioting.”

Human Rights Watch’s investigation, however, suggested a more complicated and troubling picture. Our extensive on-site interviews with eyewitnesses shortly after the slaughter revealed that it was the product of a coordinated campaign by Hindu nationalist leaders against Muslims.

The attacks, we found, were part of a concerted effort to exploit communal tensions and bolster the political standing of the Bharatiya Janata Party (Indian People’s Party/BJP), which controls Gujarat’s state government. It tacitly accepted, if not actively supported, the rampage. Smita Narula, Human Rights Watch’s senior researcher for South Asia, collected evidence that directly implicates the police in many of the attacks. At best, they were passive observers. At worst, they acted in concert with murderous mobs and participated directly in the burning and looting of Muslim homes and shops and the killing and mutilation of Muslims. In many cases, under the guise of offering assistance, the police led the victims into the hands of their killers.

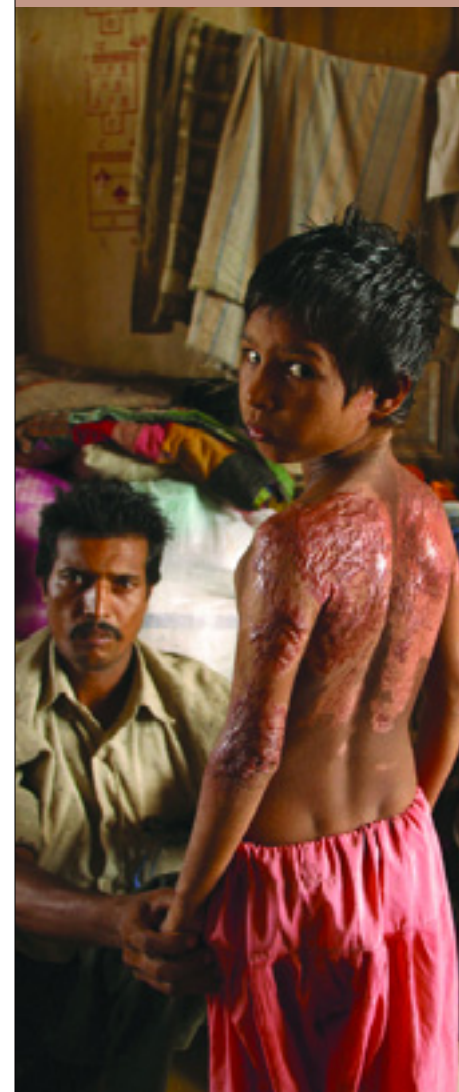
Many witnesses with whom we spoke said that their calls to the police either went unanswered or were met with responses such as, “We have no orders to save you.”

Tensions between Muslims and Hindus in India have long roots and continue to fester. The violence Human Rights Watch investigated in February and March began after a Muslim mob in the town of Godhra attacked two carriages of a train carrying Hindu activists.

The train was set on fire and fifty-eight people were killed, many of them women and children. The activists were returning from Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh, where they supported a campaign to construct a temple to the Hindu god Ram on the site of a sixteenth century mosque destroyed by Hindu militants in 1992.

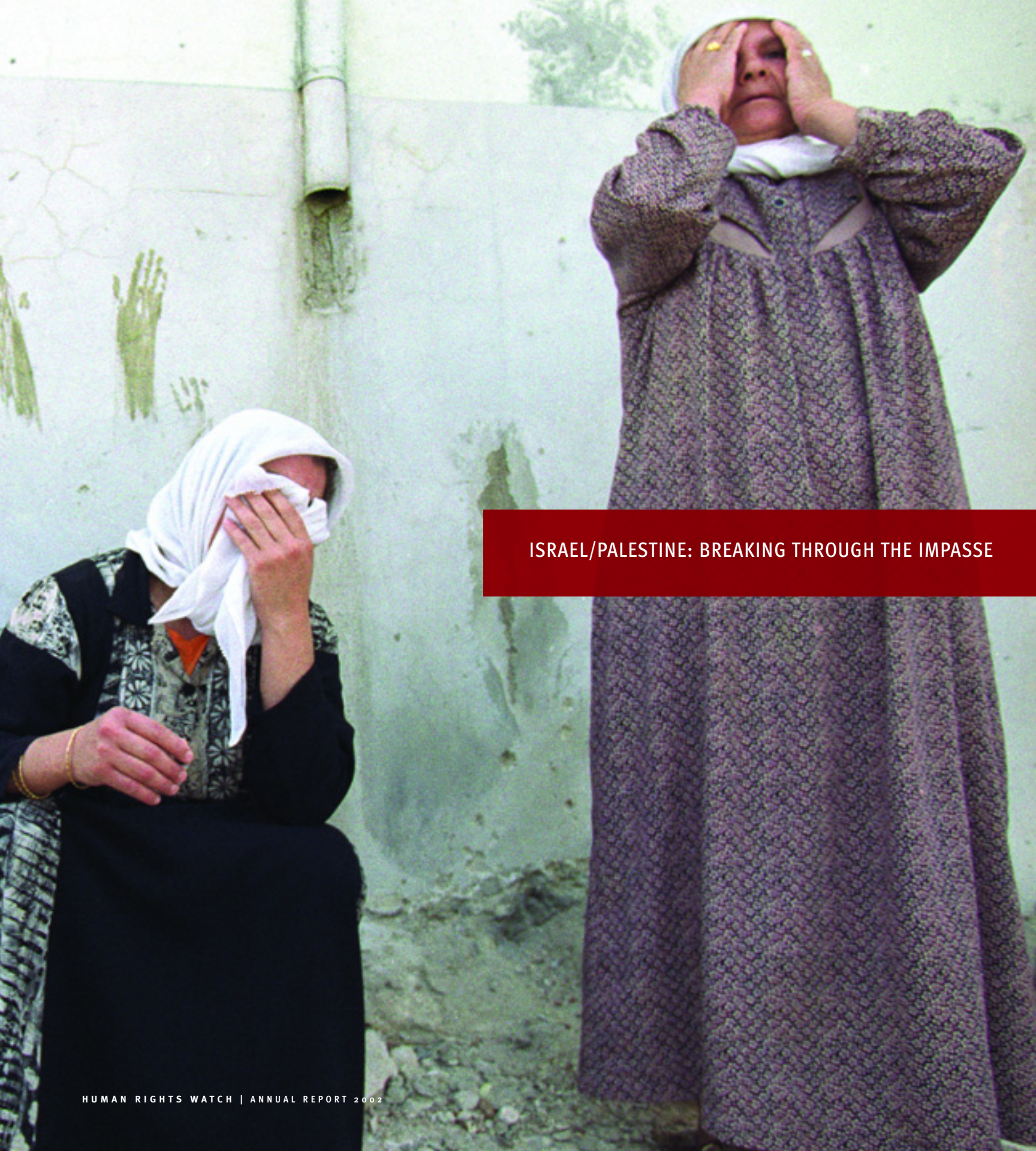
Between February 28 and March 2, 2002, in a three-day killing spree by Hindus, hundreds of Muslims were killed and tens of thousands were left homeless and dispossessed, marking the country’s worst religious bloodletting in a decade. The looting and burning of Muslim homes, shops, restaurants, and places of worship were also widespread. Scores of Muslim women and girls were brutally raped before being mutilated and burned to death. Human Rights Watch called for prosecutions of both those responsible for the attack in Godhra and the participants and organizers of the retaliatory massacres.

In previous reports on violence against minorities and Dalits (“untouchables”) in India, Human Rights Watch warned against the potential and real danger of extreme Hindu nationalism. By continuing to expose government complicity in the violence, we are working to prevent the exploitation of ongoing religious tensions by unscrupulous leaders who seek to enhance their own political fortunes. We are also pressing for greater involvement by federal security forces to protect Indian residents from the kind of negligence and mistreatment by state police we documented in Gujarat.





*Palestinian women in the Jenin refugee camp weep as a body recovered from the rubble is carried past them. April 2002.*



ISRAEL/PALESTINE: BREAKING THROUGH THE IMPASSE



ISRAEL/PALESTINE: BREAKING THROUGH THE IMPASSE

It is nearly impossible to report on human rights violations in Israel and Palestine without offending someone. The conflict is so politicized, so emotionally wrenching, that objectivity and nonpartisanship are difficult to achieve.

In seeking to enforce the rules and norms of international law, Human Rights Watch aims to break through this impasse. We carefully evaluate actions by the Israeli government and the Palestinian Authority and condemn human rights violations by both sides. We hold these actors to the same global standards as the other authorities whose practices we monitor. Our goal is to promote a central tenet of the human rights movement: the unacceptability of targeting civilians, even in wartime.

Human Rights Watch's investigation of the Israel Defense Forces' (IDF) invasion of the Jenin refugee camp in April 2002 demonstrated our ability to remain neutral in the face of conflicting claims. Palestinian leaders accused the Israelis of committing a massacre. Israeli leaders denied the charges. Human Rights Watch immediately sent researchers to Jenin to interview over one hundred residents of the camp, gathering detailed accounts from victims and witnesses and carefully corroborating and crosschecking their accounts.

Our research painted a picture that did not comport with either account of the conflict. We did not find evidence of a massacre of hundreds of civilians, as claimed by some Palestinians. Nor did we find the consistent care for civilian life claimed by Israel. We identified fifty-two Palestinians who were killed, including at least twenty-two civilians. We found evidence of numerous violations of international humanitarian law, including the IDF's use of Palestinians as "human shields," a practice in which civilians are coerced

into taking part in military operations to protect enemy troops. Some of the abuses we uncovered appeared to be war crimes, and Human Rights Watch called for a criminal investigation to ensure accountability.

The report's thoroughness and objectivity largely put an end to the debate over what had happened in Jenin. Our findings were impossible for the IDF to ignore. Just days after we issued the report, the IDF publicly committed itself to ending the practice of using Palestinian civilians as "human shields," a commitment we continue to monitor.

Human Rights Watch was also quick to denounce the plethora of suicide bombings that created an atmosphere of pervasive fear for Israeli citizens. We repeatedly condemned the attacks as war crimes and crimes against humanity for which there is no justification. Indeed, these murders flout the very human rights standards that Palestinians called on the international community to uphold, particularly those that demand the protection of civilians. As this report was going to press, Human Rights Watch was finalizing a report based on research and analysis over many months that examines and identifies the groups and individuals behind the suicide bombings. In this report, as well as in meetings with officials and in press statements, we will continue to call on the leaders of the Palestinian Authority to exercise their influence to end these atrocities and bring those responsible to justice.



*Israeli women mourn the death of a family member who was killed in the bombing of a passenger bus by the Palestinian group Islamic Jihad. June 2002.*



## The violence that has recently plagued Nigeria is hardly as random as it seems. Several Human Rights Watch investigations this year uncovered state support for military massacres and vigilante groups who are terrorizing Nigerian citizens.

Human Rights Watch conducted an exhaustive on-site investigation of an October 2001 massacre in Benue State of more than 200 people. We found that the military embarked on a rampage of killings and widespread destruction to avenge the earlier murder of nineteen soldiers, allegedly by members of the Tiv ethnic group. In coordinated operations, the military attacked villages where the majority of inhabitants were Tiv. In the village of Gbeji alone, soldiers shot dead or burned alive more than 150 people. We documented this episode in an April 2002 report and exposed the government's refusal to investigate or prosecute the killers.

The extensive media attention forced President Olusegun Obasanjo to respond personally in several statements to the media. As is so often the case when government leaders are embarrassed by our exposés, his initial reaction was to dismiss our findings. President Obasanjo hoped that we would simply go away, that we would move on to the next atrocity and allow Nigerian soldiers to continue their murderous ways. But Human Rights Watch, committed to sticking with urgent issues until progress is made, immediately began a public dialogue with the president, which itself received widespread press coverage in Nigeria and helped to maintain popular pressure on him to address the problem. In October 2002, the federal government began to disband the vigilante groups whose abuses we had exposed.

Our next targets were the vigilante groups operating with government approval in the southeast-

ern states of Anambra, Imo, and Abia. We focused on the group known as the Bakassi Boys, which has been responsible for scores of killings and hundreds of cases of torture and arbitrary detention. State authorities tolerate – and sometimes actively support – these abuses. We found that state governments have provided the Bakassi Boys with offices, uniforms, and vehicles. Sometimes they even paid the Bakassi Boys' salaries. In several cases, we found evidence that the Bakassi Boys took their orders directly from the state government. Although they have taken over the law enforcement functions of the state, the Bakassi Boys and other vigilante groups are not accountable to anyone.

We pressed the Nigerian government to disband these vigilante groups, strengthen the national police force, and investigate cases of unlawful detention, torture, and extrajudicial killing. Our aim is to see that the vigilantes and their government backers are brought to justice. We fear that in the run-up to the 2003 elections, local authorities will be tempted to manipulate the Bakassi Boys to eliminate or silence political opponents.

We also stepped up pressure on foreign governments with influence in Nigeria, especially the United States and the United Kingdom, to insist that the Nigerian government address the problem of state-sanctioned violence. It must do so if it wishes to emerge from years of military dictatorship and become a democratic nation that respects human rights and the rule of law.





The image is a still from a video, showing a scene of destruction. In the foreground, a person's body lies motionless on a dusty, light-colored ground. Behind the body, a large, dark-colored vehicle, possibly a truck or bus, is severely damaged and overturned. The vehicle's structure is crumpled, and its windows are shattered. The background is a hazy, dusty landscape. The entire image has a monochromatic, sepia-toned appearance. A dark red rectangular box is overlaid on the right side of the image, containing the text "NIGERIA: STATE-SUPPORTED VIOLENCE" in white, uppercase letters.

## NIGERIA: STATE-SUPPORTED VIOLENCE

*(left and above) Stills from a video depicting the victims of killings by the military near the market of Zaki-Biam. The video was taken by a researcher of Mzough U Tiv (United Tiv organization).*

A child banana worker in Ecuador is harnessed to a pulley system, hauling bananas from the fields to the packing plants. The child is seen from the back, wearing a light-colored shirt, and is pulling a rope attached to a large bundle of bananas. The background shows a banana plantation with rows of plants and a dirt path. The entire image has a warm, orange-tinted overlay.

## DANGEROUS CHILD LABOR IN ECUADOR'S BANANA SECTOR

*A child banana worker in Ecuador harnessed to a pulley system hauls bananas from the fields to the packing plants.*

Children in Ecuador who work on banana plantations are paid small sums to supplement their families' meager incomes. In the process, they may be injured or sickened by their jobs. A Human Rights Watch investigation found that the owners of banana plantations have exposed child laborers to working conditions that gravely endanger their health and well-being.

Our recent report found that children as young as eight work twelve-hour days preparing bananas for export from Ecuador, the world's largest banana exporter. Exposed to aerial fumigation, the children suffer from headaches, rashes, nausea, and other ailments. Some apply pesticides directly, without any protection, to bananas in preparation for shipment. Others work in jobs that involve heavy lifting and dangerous tools – difficult tasks for children with small hands and tired bodies.

Some children are injured while working with sharp knives and machetes. Others haul extremely heavy loads, using shoulder harnesses attached to pulley systems to drag bananas along cables. The strain can cause long-term back injuries. If the hauling apparatus breaks, as sometimes happens, a child can be hit by a stalk of bananas weighing fifty to one hundred pounds or by an iron pulley used to haul the bananas.

Girls experience an added set of dangers. Three girls with whom we spoke said they had been sexually harassed by their supervisor – fondled and/or subjected to vulgar, sexual language.

Although the children we interviewed earned, on average, only 60 percent of what adults make, most were drawn to the banana plantations to supplement family wages. Some of the children work during school vacations to help pay school fees, yet, by the age of fourteen, most of those with whom we spoke had left school to work on the banana plantations.

On July 24, 2002, just three months after the release of Human Rights Watch's report, the Ecuadorian banana industry signed an agreement with various national and international agencies promising to stop employing children under fifteen within the year and to prevent older children from working in harmful conditions. Human Rights Watch intends to keep the pressure on to ensure that the agreement is upheld.

One tool we will use is a public campaign we have initiated targeting companies that export Ecuadorian bananas to the United States and Europe. We are demanding that they require their suppliers to put a stop to these abusive practices. We also urge supermarkets and food services to put similar pressure on their corporate banana suppliers.





*Human Rights Watch Executive Director Kenneth Roth met with Mexico President Vicente Fox to urge accountability for past human rights abuses in Mexico.*

The secrets of Mexico's shady past are slowly coming to light. The election of President Vicente Fox, who has been more open to human rights reforms than his predecessors, suggests that Mexico might finally investigate and pursue accountability for the serious human rights violations committed by its military over the past several decades – from the “dirty war” of the 1970s to the counter-narcotics campaigns of the 1990s.

Human Rights Watch has capitalized on this watershed moment. We issued a report in December 2001 on the failure of the military justice system to investigate and prosecute alleged human rights abuses. In the course of recent counter-narcotics operations, we found, soldiers have committed extra-judicial killings, illegal detention, rape, and torture. Under Mexican law, these cases are subject to military rather than civilian jurisdiction, meaning that they usually go unpunished. Many are not even investigated. In the report, we called on Mexico to end military jurisdiction over all cases involving human rights violations.

In releasing the report, members of our staff traveled to Mexico City to meet President Fox. They spoke to him about Mexico's failure to punish army abuses. They urged him to ensure that a soon-to-be-created special prosecutor's office was given the resources and independence necessary to investigate past violations. And they

encouraged him to appoint someone of sufficient stature to withstand the enormous political pressures that any serious investigation into these cases would generate.

Shortly after, President Fox named Ignacio Carrillo Prieto as the special prosecutor. It is still too early to tell how effective he will be, but he has shown an encouraging willingness to take on powerful interests, as when he summoned former President Luis Echeverría Álvarez in July 2002 to testify about his alleged responsibility for the massacre of as many as 300 student demonstrators in 1968.

Our hope is that the special prosecutor, by bringing the Mexican military under the rule of law, will help solidify the dramatic advances in Mexican democracy that President Fox's election represents. Human Rights Watch is committed to helping provide him the political backing he needs to succeed.



MEXICO: ENDING IMPUNITY AND EXTENDING THE RULE OF LAW

*Mexican soldiers march during a military parade in Mexico City.*



*Refugees from Rwanda  
cross the border of  
former Zaire (Democratic  
Republic of Congo) after  
the 1994 genocide.*



A MILESTONE FOR THE HUMAN RIGHTS MOVEMENT:  
THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT



A MILESTONE FOR THE HUMAN RIGHTS MOVEMENT:  
THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT



# On July 1, 2002, the world became a more just place. The International Criminal Court (ICC), a global tribunal to prosecute those responsible for genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity, was established.

This is a truly historic moment for the human rights movement. Until now, to protect rights we have had to depend on public pressure, diplomatic interventions, economic sanctions, and the like. The ICC now allows us to threaten would-be tyrants with arrest, trial, and punishment as well.

This victory was the product of a long-term campaign in which Human Rights Watch played a central role. We documented atrocities in such places as Bosnia and Rwanda. We stressed to international policymakers and the global media the problem of impunity – the fact that dictators who use violence and intimidation to prevent accountability are more likely to commit atrocities. We built coalitions with governments and nongovernmental organizations around the world – not only to create the court but also to defend it from virulent U.S. opposition.

Despite the court's many safeguards against unfair prosecution, Washington was never able to see beyond the remote possibility that the ICC would prosecute an American. U.S. opposition to the ICC intensified when the Bush administration took office. On May 3, 2002, President Bush repudiated President Clinton's signature on the ICC treaty. In June, he threatened to end various U.N. peacekeeping missions unless U.S. soldiers were given permanent immunity from

prosecution. Human Rights Watch worked intensively to stave off this vision of two-tiered justice, one for Americans and one for everyone else. The resulting compromise – a one-year reprieve – denies the U.S. government the power it sought to unilaterally prevent the prosecution of an American forever.

A long-term effort will be needed to overcome Washington's entrenched hostility toward the court. Human Rights Watch will work with the court's supporters – democracies around the world – to ensure that the court upholds the highest standards of due process and fairness. Our detailed global reporting makes us particularly well suited to suggest the most appropriate cases for investigation and prosecution.

We will also counteract the rise of a disturbing view within the Bush administration that the United States is no longer served by the international rule of law. Every nation – even as dominant a power as the United States today – benefits from a global order in which most governments abide voluntarily by shared norms, whether of commerce, democracy, or peace. If the United States rejects all forms of international accountability, it undermines the rule of law and leaves only a system of coercion. That radical vision does not serve America's interests, and it certainly does not serve the world's.



*(above) A young Bosnian rushes across a dangerous intersection in Mostar where many civilians were killed by sniper fire.*

*(left) An armed Bosnian Croat looks on as Bosnian Muslim men are marched to detention in an abandoned factory. The men were evicted from their homes and separated from their families.*



H U M A N  
R I G H T S  
W A T C H

## Who

We are a staff of more than 180 individuals working with local human rights groups, activists, and volunteers around the world. Backed by thousands of supporters, we come from a variety of backgrounds and share the common goal of promoting and defending human rights worldwide.

## What

Human Rights Watch is one of the largest human rights organizations in the world. We conduct fact-finding investigations into human rights abuses in all regions of the world and publish those findings in reports every year. By generating press through our reporting and advocacy, we seek to shame abusive governments, change policies and practices, inform the public about important human rights issues, and generate intense pressure to curb abuses.

## When

Human Rights Watch started in 1978 as Helsinki Watch to monitor human rights in the former Soviet bloc. In the 1980s, Americas Watch was set up to demonstrate that abuses in Latin America were as intolerable as those committed elsewhere. The organization grew to cover other regions of the world, until all the “Watch” committees were united in 1988 to form Human Rights Watch.

## Where

Human Rights Watch is based in New York, with offices in Brussels, Geneva, London, Los Angeles, Moscow, San Francisco, and Washington. We often set up temporary offices in regions where we’re conducting intensive investigations, and researchers regularly travel to the countries they cover.

## Why

Human Rights Watch believes that international human rights standards apply to all people equally. We are convinced that progress occurs when people of conscience organize, and that our awareness and protest can prevent future tragedies.

## How

Human Rights Watch is known worldwide for the even-handedness and accuracy of our reporting. To maintain our independence, we do not accept financial support from any government, directly or indirectly. We depend entirely on contributions from private foundations and from individuals like you.

**Together,  
we can make a difference.**

"To enlist the public and the international community to support human rights for all."

## THE HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH COUNCIL



*Mike Farrell speaks about the death penalty to Young Advocates in Los Angeles.*

**The Human Rights Watch Council** is a membership organization with regional committees around the world. These committees seek to increase awareness of human rights issues and support for Human Rights Watch. Council members meet regularly to develop outreach, advocacy, and fundraising initiatives that further the mission of Human Rights Watch. With the support of

conscientious and dedicated individuals, the Human Rights Watch Council fosters a prominent and influential role for those who wish to promote the cause of human rights through their personal commitment to defending human rights worldwide.

### **Current Council Locations:**

Los Angeles · New York · San Francisco · London

## YOUNG ADVOCATES

**The Human Rights Watch Young Advocates**, Human Rights Watch's young professionals' organization, has experienced incredible growth and success. With regional chapters already in Los Angeles, San Francisco, and New York, the Young Advocates work with Human Rights Watch staff to provide vital public outreach. The Young Advocates increase awareness of human rights issues and expand the protection of human rights through the organization of local forums and debates and through other forms of education and advocacy.



*Founder of the New York Young Advocates, Laura Palmer, with Board member Bruce Rabb, attend a public forum co-presented by the New York Young Advocates and WNYC Radio.*



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# BUILDING A HUMAN RIGHTS COMMUNITY: THE HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH COUNCIL

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- 1 *Jeremy Irons, Sinead Cusack and Barbara Matthews at the Royal Court Theatre's International Playwrights Festival Opening, co-sponsored by the London Committee.*
- 2 *Participants at the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) anti-bias training workshops held in Los Angeles.*
- 3 *Tony White, Anke Mebold and Carroll Bogert in New York.*
- 4 *Terree Bowers, Kitty Felde and Martina Vandenberg at the Women's Rights Committee dinner series in Los Angeles.*
- 5 *John Studzinski and Dame Joan Plowright at the Royal Court Theatre in London.*
- 6 *(left to right) Jeri Laber, author of THE COURAGE OF STRANGERS: COMING OF AGE WITH THE HUMAN RIGHTS MOVEMENT, speaks with Robert L. Bernstein and George Soros at a book party in her honor in New York.*
- 7 *Jeri Alden, Barbara Gortikov and Joan Beerman at a Women's Rights Committee event in Los Angeles.*
- 8 *Dustin and Lisa Hoffman with human rights defender Abdul Rahman Yacob at the Annual Dinner in Los Angeles.*
- 9 *Marina Kaufman and Phyllida Law at the International Film Festival Opening Night Benefit Gala in London.*
- 10 *Julia Ormond and human rights defender Ismail Adylov at the Annual Dinner in Los Angeles.*
- 11 *Tracy and Noah Wyle, with Jonathan Feldman at the Annual Dinner in Los Angeles.*
- 12 *Human rights defender Dr. Haruun Ruun, Zazi Pope and Jemera Rone at the Annual Dinner in Los Angeles.*
- 13 *Madame Justice Louise Arbour addresses the California Committee South.*
- 14 *Tony Elliott and John Studzinski at the Royal Court Theatre in London.*
- 15 *LaShawn Jefferson at the Women's Rights Committee dinner series in Los Angeles.*

The Human Rights Watch Council is continually seeking new members. We also welcome suggestions for other cities where leadership can be identified. Each Council member makes an annual contribution of US \$5,000 or more, either personally or through introductions and recruitment of others.

To receive more information on becoming a Human Rights Watch Council or Young Advocates member, call (212) 290-4700 or visit [www.hrw.org/community/council](http://www.hrw.org/community/council)

## HONORING THE COURAGE OF INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS

EACH YEAR, HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH HONORS HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS FROM AROUND THE WORLD. THESE FRONT-LINE ACTIVISTS EXEMPLIFY THE COURAGE AND DEDICATION OF SO MANY OF OUR COLLEAGUES IN THE INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS MOVEMENT. BY INVESTIGATING AND DOCUMENTING ABUSES AND SPEAKING OUT FOR JUSTICE IN THEIR HOME COUNTRIES, THEY HELP ADVANCE THE HUMAN RIGHTS CAUSE. THEY RISK THEIR FREEDOM, SAFETY, AND OFTEN THEIR LIVES, TO DEFEND THEIR FELLOW CITIZENS FROM REPRESSIVE GOVERNMENTS AND ABUSIVE ARMED FORCES.

SINCE 1988, HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH HAS HONORED 156 HUMAN RIGHTS MONITORS FOR THEIR BRAVE DEFENSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS. WE WORK CLOSELY WITH THESE ACTIVISTS IN THE 70 COUNTRIES WHERE WE CONDUCT RESEARCH AND ADVOCACY. HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH IS PROUD TO CELEBRATE THEIR SELFLESS AND SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS CAUSE.

THE 2001 HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH ANNUAL DINNERS, HELD IN NEW YORK, LOS ANGELES, AND SAN FRANCISCO, HONORED FIVE HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS FROM UZBEKISTAN, GUATEMALA, SUDAN, INDONESIA, AND PAKISTAN. THE SAME ACTIVISTS WERE HONORED IN LONDON IN 2002. AT THESE EVENTS, THEY ARE ABLE TO MEET OTHER MEMBERS OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMUNITY AND TO SPEAK ON BEHALF OF THEIR FELLOW CITIZENS WHOSE PLIGHT OTHERWISE MIGHT REMAIN UNKNOWN.

Ismail Adylov (Uzbekistan) is a long-time human rights activist and political dissident in Uzbekistan. With the Independent Human Rights Organization of Uzbekistan, he investigated cases of illegal arrest, monitored trials, and conducted dozens of interviews with victims of torture and their families. In 1999, the government of Islam Karimov launched an aggressive campaign against Adylov and his colleagues, apparently to silence their revelations about religious repression and mass violations of human rights by state authorities. In July of that year, Tashkent police

took Adylov into custody. After only a three-hour hearing, a court found him guilty and sentenced him to six years in prison, where he was subjected to torture and denied medical treatment. After a large international campaign for Adylov's release, President Karimov freed him on July 3, 2001.

Rosa Isabel García (Guatemala), a 22-year-old K'iche' woman, has been a domestic worker for seven years. García is on the executive council of CENTRACAP, an organization run by current and former domestic workers. It provides services to domestic workers, sponsors activities to improve workers' knowledge of their rights, and engages in advocacy to promote these rights. García represents the hundreds, if not thousands, of indigenous girls and women who migrate each year to the capital in search of employment as live-in household workers. These indigenous domestic workers encounter legal discrimination and daily exploitation.

Ismail Adylov



Rosa Isabel García



Abdul Rahman Yacob (Indonesia) is a lawyer in Aceh, Indonesia, with a coalition of human rights organizations, known by its Indonesian name of Koalisi HAM. Aceh is in the midst of a war between Indonesian army and police on one side, and guerrilla forces of the Free Aceh Movement on the other. Under the leadership of Rahman, Koalisi is producing some of the most thorough, timely, and accurate reporting on human rights violations in Aceh. He has taken on the defense of some of Aceh's highest-profile political prisoners. Rahman is so accustomed to receiving threats

that he treats them as commonplace, but in a hazardous occupation, Rahman takes on more hazards than most.

Abdul Rahman Yacob



Afrasiab Khattak (Pakistan) is chairperson of the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP), one of the country's leading nongovernmental organizations. As chairperson, Khattak has been one of the most outspoken advocates for the protection of Afghan refugees in Pakistan, challenging government policies and practices aimed at deporting existing refugees and curbing further inflows. HRCP has also been a standard-bearer in calling for the restoration of democracy in Pakistan since the military coup in October 1999. In the current crisis in Afghanistan, Khattak has publicly articulated the need for Afghan civil society to play a prominent role in the country's reconstruction.

Afrasiab Khattak



Dr. Haruun Ruun (Sudan) is the head of the New Sudan Council of Churches, which is made up of Catholic and Protestant churches in rebel-held areas of southern Sudan. He has done significant human rights-related work in connection with the People-to-People peace and reconciliation process. It brings together citizens in southern Sudan to promote an end to conflict among ethnic groups there. Ruun, a U.S.-educated Presbyterian minister, has helped to address such problems as returning abducted women and children to their families, returning looted cattle, attempting to implement a local system of law and order, and searching for funds for the rebuilding of villages destroyed in the conflict.

Dr. Haruun Ruun





## VIEWING HUMAN RIGHTS STRUGGLES THROUGH FILM

The Human Rights Watch International Film Festival, which began in 1988 as a rather obscure series in a 90-seat theater, has become a major cultural event in New York – and beyond. In June 2002, the benefit gala of the festival drew 1200 people to New York’s Alice Tully Hall. By screening time, each of the

32 films at the Walter Reade Theater in New York was sold out, perhaps as a result of the extraordinarily positive coverage of the festival in the press.

Opening night in New York featured a new film by acclaimed director Costa Gavras. The film, *Amen*, explores the complicity of the Vatican in the Holocaust. It condemns the powers that kept silent about the Nazi death camps and is a moving portrait of the individuals who were brave enough to take a stand against them.

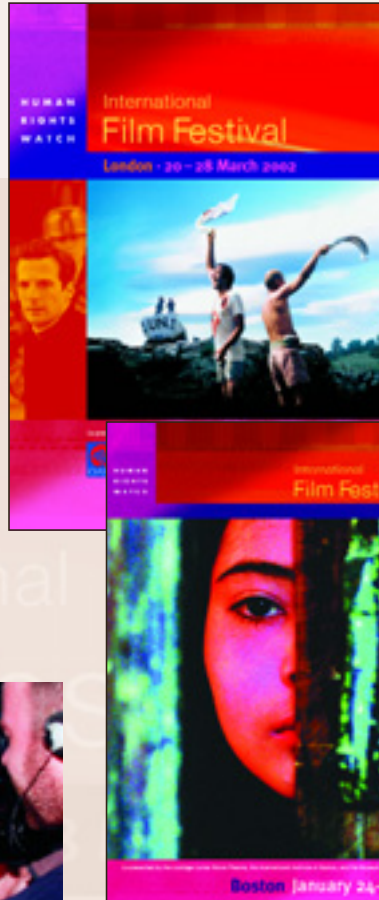
The New York festival also honored two filmmakers. Lourdes Portillo won the Nestor Almendros Prize for courage in filmmaking for her film, *Missing Young Woman*, an exploration of the disappearance of over 200 young women from a Mexican city on the Texas border. British director Ken Loach, cinema’s poet of the working class, won the Irene Diamond Lifetime Achievement Award for his outstanding commitment to human rights filmmaking.



Filmmakers Costa Gavras, Lourdes Portillo and Ken Loach.

In London, the Human Rights Watch International Film Festival's gala benefit in March at the Curzon Mayfair Cinema drew more than 500 people who attended a screening of *Amen*. The London film festival also played to sold-out audiences. One of the festival's highlights was *No Man's Land*, the Oscar Award-winning drama about the war in Bosnia.

The festival had a sold-out run in Boston in January and played in San Francisco in February. It also traveled to San Diego, Ann Arbor, Providence, St. Paul, Washington, Boulder, Houston, Ithaca, New Haven, Albuquerque, Denver, Seattle, Portland, and Salt Lake City, among other cities.



(above) Festival Director Bruni Burres gives an interview at the London Film Festival.

The Human Rights Watch International Film Festival is an important source of human rights information for the general public, often at times when the public's need for that information is great. For example, only a few months before the U.S.-led military action in Afghanistan, Human Rights Watch featured *Jung (War): In the Land of the Mujaheddin*, a film by Italian filmmakers about the war in that devastated country. With a renewed crisis in Afghanistan, Human Rights Watch received more than three hundred requests for the film. We distributed it free of charge to more than fifty community organization and festival screenings.

Through film, we see that human rights events are more than just news; they are personal stories about our neighbors and fellow citizens who live worlds away but remain connected to us through our commitment to the basic dignity of all people.

## FISCAL YEAR 2002 (APRIL 1, 2001 – MARCH 31, 2002)

### OPERATING REVENUES:

Foundations	\$ 6,319,727
Individuals	11,871,898
Endowment	875,000
Investment Income	194,963
Publications	269,770

**TOTAL OPERATING REVENUES: \$ 19,531,358**

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### OPERATING EXPENSES:

#### PROGRAM EXPENSES

##### REGIONAL/THEMATIC

Africa	\$1,796,236
Americas	880,830
Asia	1,387,069
Europe and Central Asia	2,162,374
Middle East and North Africa	1,123,496
United States	299,763
Arms	1,226,969
Children's Rights	753,668
Women's Rights	900,512
Fellowships	377,054
International Justice	815,238
Academic Freedom	101,866
Business & Human Rights	163,300
Refugees	195,229
HIV/AIDS	71,228
Emergencies	231,943
Grants to Others	149,398

**TOTAL REGIONAL/THEMATIC EXPENSES 12,636,173**

##### CENTRAL (UNALLOCATED)

Advocacy	293,611
Communications	443,915
General Counsel	134,358
Program Office	183,488
Executive	76,019

**TOTAL CENTRAL PROGRAM EXPENSES 1,131,391**

**OUTREACH AND FILM FESTIVAL \$ 804,765**

**DEVELOPMENT \$ 3,093,323**

**ADMINISTRATION (UNALLOCATED) \$ 1,876,978**

**TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES \$ 19,542,630**

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Human Rights Watch is an independent, nongovernmental organization, supported by contributions from private individuals and foundations worldwide. It accepts no government funds, directly or indirectly.

An audited financial statement, which includes an accounting of net assets, is available upon request.

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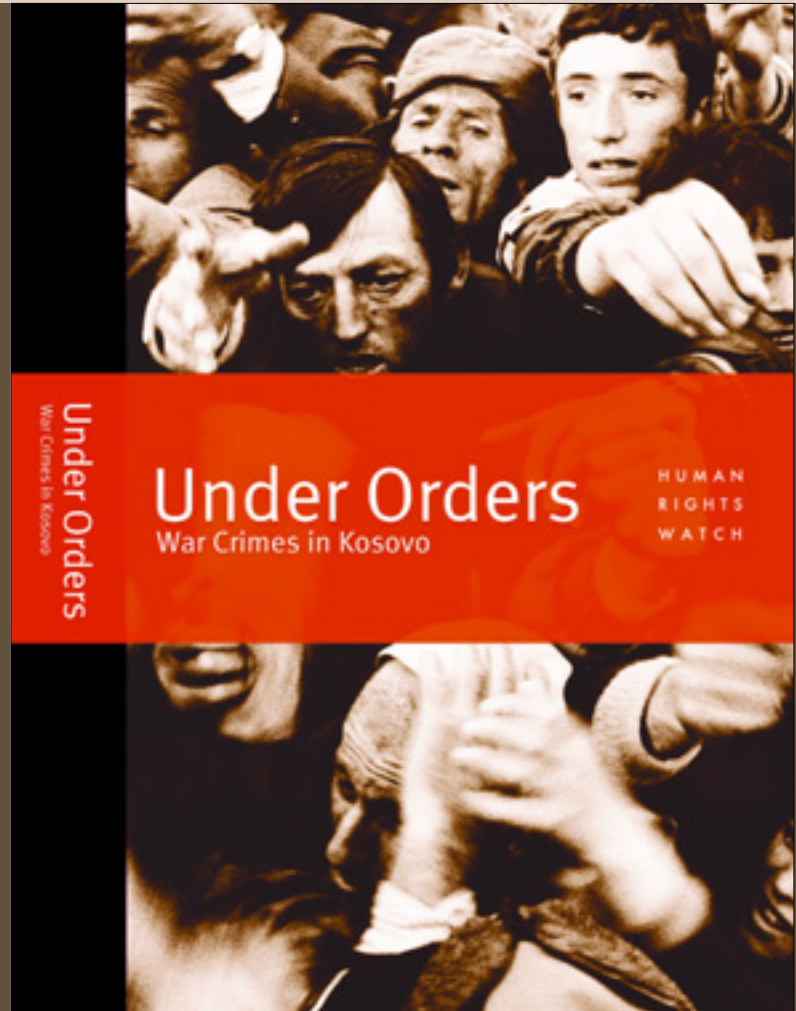
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This report documents the murders, rapes, forced expulsions, and other war crimes committed by Serbian and Yugoslav government forces against Kosovar Albanians between March 24 and June 12, 1999, the period of NATO's air campaign against Yugoslavia. The report documents a coordinated and - systematic campaign to terrorize, kill, and expel the ethnic Albanians of Kosovo that was organized by the highest levels of the Serbian and Yugoslav governments in power at that time.

The report also describes serious abuses committed by the Kosovo Liberation Army, which abducted and murdered civilians during and after the war, as well as by NATO, which failed to adequately minimize civilian casualties during its bombing of Yugoslavia. The primary focus, however, is the Serbian and Yugoslav state-sponsored violence inflicted against ethnic Albanian citizens of Yugoslavia.



*Children sit in a makeshift outdoor classroom following the demise of the Taliban. Human Rights Watch has sought expansion of the international security force throughout Afghanistan to provide the security needed for post-war development and provision of basic necessities such as education and healthcare.*

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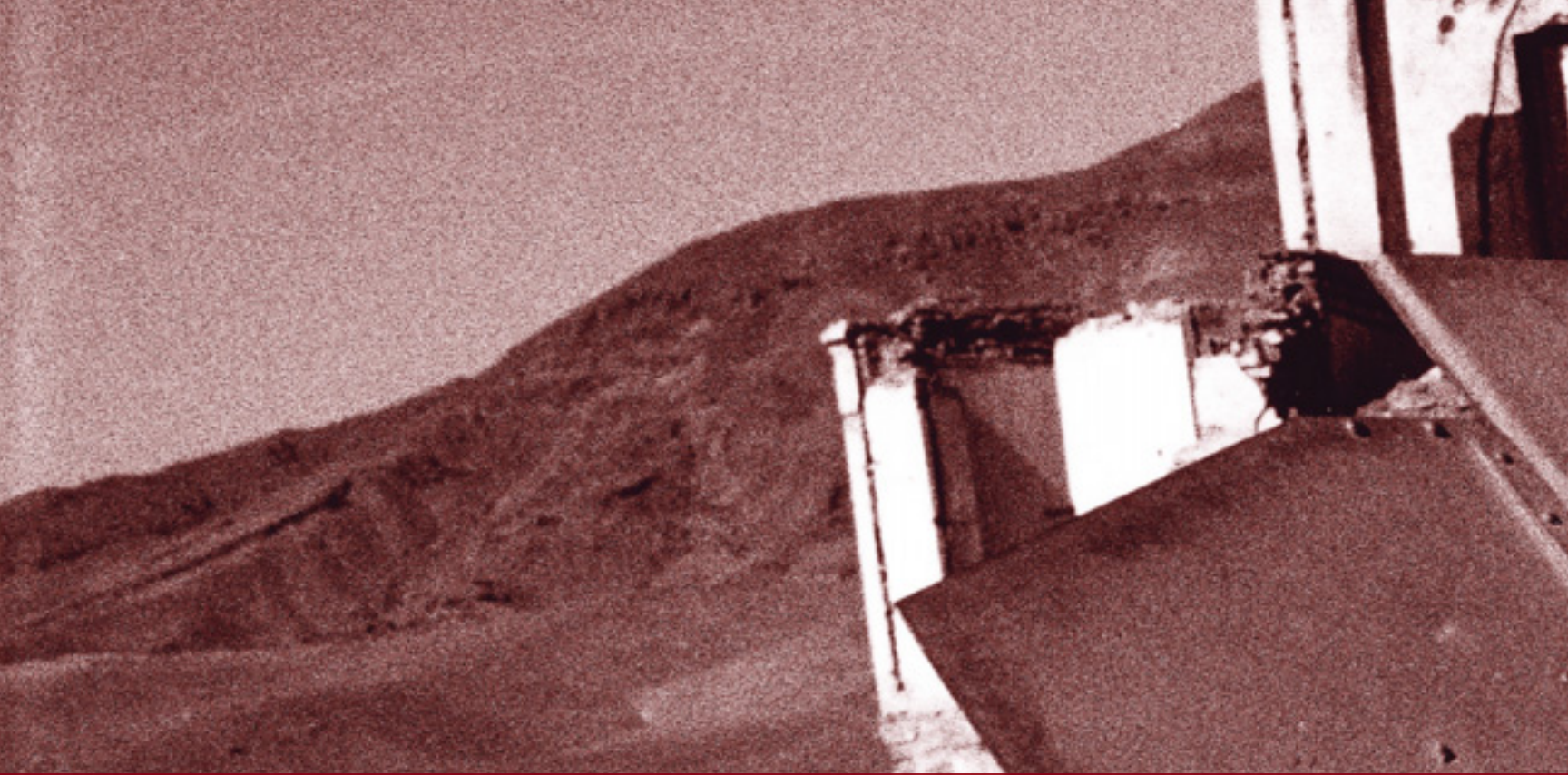
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