<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONTENTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Message From Our Chairman of the Board:.....</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mission .................................................................</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Model ...............................................................</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Where We Work .....................................................</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toolkit ..............................................................</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programs .............................................................</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Highlights ................................................</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Press .................................................................</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial Statement ................................................</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Our Team ............................................................</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>We Need Your Help ..................................................</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thank You to All of Our Donors..............................</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
MESSAGE FROM PEJ’S CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

“The victims perished not only because of the killers, but also because of the apathy of the bystanders. What astonished us after the torment, after the tempest, was not that so many killers killed so many victims, but that so few cared about us at all.”

— Elie Wiesel, Holocaust survivor

Dear Valued Friends:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Project Expedite Justice (“PEJ”) it gives me great pleasure to present our 2018 Annual Report. It is with a high order of pride that I engage in my duty as a newly elected Chairman of the Board for PEJ, providing me with the opportunity to participate in addressing mass atrocity crimes.

As we start the next decade, we must recognize that we are living in ever evolving times that require each of us to take a stand to support humanity as a whole. At PEJ, our values of integrity, humanity and dignity require that we act, sooner rather than later, to protect marginalized populations around the world.

It is with this thought that PEJ was founded by Cynthia Tai in 2016. Ms. Tai served as trial lawyer at the International Criminal Court, and observed first hand, a critical need for training and technical support in documenting crimes of atrocities and egregious human rights abuses. Since its founding, PEJ has operated with the support of its local partners in South-East Asia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sudan and South Sudan.

The mission and focus of PEJ has not wavered since 2016. PEJ’s mission remains focused on assisting survivors of mass atrocities and serious human rights abuses to work toward achieving justice through all available legal mechanisms. By building the capacity of organizations on the ground, conducting legal research to identify the most promising fora for accountability, and by guiding appropriate cases through the legal process, we are empowering local populations to achieve their goals.

PEJ’s methodology starts with training human rights defenders and supporting them with rigorous mentoring and guidance, to document appropriately, consider investigative avenues and ultimately create case files. Once evidence is harvested, PEJ and its partners prepare submissions to the appropriate body on behalf of affected populations.

PEJ’s approach is novel. By taking a holistic view of the atrocities, PEJ considers all available legal mechanisms, including national jurisdictions, regional jurisdictions, the International Criminal Court, and financial institutions, such as the United States Treasury to robustly counter the commission of atrocities.

Finally, as we launch into 2020, we must recognize that humanity will continue to be challenged in this year and the decade that follows. In the face of mounting challenges, we must embrace our responsibility to create positive change. We hope that you will be inspired to join us.

Judge David Wiseman
Board Chairman
Project Expedite Justice
Project Expedite Justice’s mission is to assist the victims of mass atrocities and serious human rights abuses to find justice through all available legal mechanisms. Through a victim-centered approach, we do this by building the capacity of organizations on the ground that are engaging victim communities to engage in litigation, carrying out legal research to identify the most promising fora for accountability and by guiding appropriate cases through the legal process.
PEJ's three-step model consists of training, mentoring, and providing independent legal consulting. It is adaptable and can be applied in conflict and post-conflict situations and to a range of criminal matters and serious human rights abuses. We partner and train local lawyers and investigators to collect, analyze, and preserve evidence according to international legal standards. Without evidence, there can be no accountability. We further build local capabilities and launch the justice process forward through case-specific mentoring and strategic guidance provided to local legal practitioners and investigators. Finally, we partner with local NGOs, pro bono law firms, legal clinics, and investigators to represent victims of international crimes and serious human rights abuses in court or in alternative judicial mechanisms. Our innovative model includes the following key aspects:

**MODEL**

1. Linking the crimes to those responsible
2. Empowering local populations
3. Dismantling criminal networks

**PEJ’S MODEL FOR SEEKING JUSTICE AND ACCOUNTABILITY**

- **SECTORS**
  - Mass atrocity crimes (e.g. genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity)
  - Cross-border crimes (e.g. human trafficking, child sex exploitation, money laundering, corruption)
  - Other serious human rights violations

- **SERVICES**
  - Training & capacity building
  - Investigative guidance & mentoring
  - Legal representation & consulting

- **CLIENTS & PARTNERS**
  - NGOs
  - Individual survivors
  - Communities
On behalf of nine Sudanese victims, PEJ and FIDH have filed a criminal action against French bank, BNP Paribas S.A. for complicity in the crimes committed by the Sudanese government from at least 2002-2008, including torture, crimes against humanity and genocide, and for financial crimes.

PEJ and its partner are investigating the crimes committed against civilians in the border region. This region has numerous armed groups operating in the area, and civilians are suffering from the ongoing violence.

As a member of the Liberty Shared’s Legal Impact Hub, PEJ assists with training, action learning, and strategic litigation to combat all forms of human trafficking and modern-day slavery in Southeast Asia.
TOOLKIT

Training. PEJ provides training for partner organizations. These trainings are conducted by world class legal practitioners focusing on international law and procedure and internationally recognized standards for evidence collection. This training is intended to ensure that mass atrocities and other crimes are recorded and evidence is preserved so that it can be used in any forum, whether at the national, regional or international level.

Investigative Guidance. During the investigation phase, PEJ works side-by-side with the local partners to tackle challenges that arise, refine strategies, and develop leads. This case-focused peer mentoring empowers local populations to seek justice, provides long-term stability, and ensures that international standards for evidence collection are met. PEJ works with partners to analyze evidence, develop legal theories, and research applicable laws.

Jurisdictional Mapping. Additionally, our lawyers research potential venues for accountability. By evaluating jurisdictions where cases may be brought, PEJ can work with local lawyers or NGOs to ensure that the best possible case is presented in the best forum given the circumstances of each case. Where it is not possible to proceed with a case at the national level, we will explore international mechanisms or other alternative forums of justice. Where necessary, we will draft legal documents in support of these cases and forge connections with other lawyers with the necessary expertise or qualifications to move forward. At all stages of the case, we will communicate with victims and keep them abreast of developments. We do not engage in public advocacy unless required to advance the interests of the individuals with whom we work.
In South Sudan, the civil war rages on with no end in sight. Millions of citizens have fled. Since the outbreak of the war in 2013, there have been grave violations of human rights including massacres and widespread sexual violence. Amid increasing ethnic polarization, numerous experts have warned that the country is at risk of genocide.

In response, PEJ carried out an initial training for nine South Sudanese partners with the African Centre for Justice and Peace Studies (ACJPS) and Foundation for Democracy and Accountable Governance (FODAG). The training focused on sexual and gender-based violence given its prevalence. Our partners have considerable experience in documenting human rights violations in insecure environments, so we adapted our training to focus on sexual violence and on the collection of court admissible evidence. A full day of the training was devoted to physical and digital security.

Since the initial training, PEJ has continued to provide ongoing mentoring and guidance to support documentation efforts of the local South Sudanese human rights monitors as they collect witness statements across the country.
PEJ’s Pilot Program: Sudan & South Sudan

Since the start of the conflict in 2011, the people of the South Kordofan and Blue Nile States of Sudan have suffered a campaign of aerial bombardment and a blockade of humanitarian aid. More than 4,000 bombs have been dropped on civilians. Not only have these bombs killed people, destroyed crops and devastated the region’s already limited infrastructure, they have disrupted agricultural activity, creating a humanitarian crisis. Combined with the blockade of humanitarian action, this has left much of the region on the brink of starvation.

Since 2017, PEJ held more than half a dozen trainings for investigators from the Two Areas. Working with investigators with expertise in monitoring, documenting and reporting on human rights violations, PEJ developed specialized trainings focused on documenting such abuses for litigation. The initial training focused on understanding the elements of international crimes, and on key aspects of evidence collection to ensure that, with guidance, the investigators would recognize what is relevant, and collect this evidence in such a way that it would be admissible in court. We also addressed physical and virtual security concerns. PEJ’s second training focused on analysis of the current situation, practical exercises, identifying challenges, and jointly developing strategies for investigation. In addition, PEJ undertook a mission to the affected region to collect evidence ranging from medical records to photographs to high-level witness statements.

South Kordofan and Blue Nile, Sudan. More than 4,000 bombs have been dropped on civilians. Not only have these bombs killed people, destroyed crops and devastated the region’s already limited infrastructure, they have disrupted agricultural activity, creating a humanitarian crisis.
Thus far, PEJ has gathered more than 400 written statements, over 2,400 videos and photographs, and conducted a number of high-level interviews, including with insiders capable of sharing information about the regime. Analysis of this information has begun and has been used to develop an interim mapping of the crime base which will inform targeted investigation plans moving forward.

In 2018, PEJ drafted and filed an Expert Brief to support Communications 402/11 and 420/12, Sudanese Civilians in South Kordofan and Blue Nile v. Republic of Sudan, with the African Commission on Human and People’s Rights (ACHPR). Other long-time Sudanese advocacy NGOs signed on and supported our brief, including Al Khatim Adlan Centre for Enlightenment and Human Development (KACE), International Refugee Rights Initiative (IRRI), African Center for Justice and Peace Studies (ACJPS), Horn of Africa Civil Society Forum, and National Human Rights Monitor Organization (NHRMO). PEJ also submitted a Communication Regarding Human Rights Violations Against Sudanese Children in South Kordofan and Blue Nile States, highlighting the egregious human rights violations that Sudanese children have endured between June 2011 to August 2018. We submitted this communication before the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC), a regional human rights mechanism that makes rulings on violations by states. KACE, IRRI, ACJPS, Horn of Africa Civil Society Forum, and NHRMO supported the communication as well.
Adapting our model, PEJ initiated a program combatting child exploitation and human trafficking. Human trafficking in Cambodia is part of a web of criminality that also includes official corruption and allows those that control the trade tofinance other criminal activity. Unravelling these criminal networks, therefore, is vital not only for the victims of trafficking, but more generally to reduce criminal activity and advance human rights.

PEJ was approached by Actions Pour Les Enfants (APLE), a local NGO seeking strategic legal support for its in-country investigations and to bring cases in foreign jurisdictions. This is possible because sexual exploitation is often perpetrated by foreigners. In February 2017, PEJ and APLE conducted a training for police in Sihanoukville, and PEJ presented on the international standards for protecting children. Then in August 2017, PEJ conducted a training on civil compensation mechanisms available for child victims. Fifteen staff members of APLE attended the training in Phnom Penh. Then in late 2017, PEJ entered into an agreement with a second anti-trafficking organization, Liberty Asia, which combats human trafficking across Asia and runs programs involving Thailand, Cambodia, Malaysia, and Hong Kong. Like PEJ, it takes a broader approach to fighting trafficking, examining potential avenues of justice for victims beyond traditional approaches. PEJ has assisted Liberty Asia in expanding its Legal Impact Hub in Cambodia which provides legal resources, training opportunities, case-focused mentorship to local NGOs and pursues strategic litigation where possible.
Most conflicts in the DRC have witnessed a slow deteriorating over the last year. For example, 3.9 million people have been displaced, more than in Syria and one of the highest levels recorded since 1993. 428,000 people were displaced in one month alone. While the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) is not the sole actor and the conflict is complex, it is undeniable that the ADF is a significant actor. The ADF uses extreme violence to silence civilians. In most cases, civilians, young and old, are killed or beheaded by garden hoes or other crude instruments, such as pangas. In most cases, there are no survivors of the attacks. Violence is not limited to civilians. Internal to the organization, the ADF has a strong pillar that acts as a judiciary and adjudicates infractions. Recruits, many of whom are unwilling, are punished by crucifixion, a heavy dose of lashing or beheaded, depending on the infraction. In other cases, where individuals within the camps speak out of turn, their mouths are sewn shut.

PEJ, with Bridgeway Foundation (BW), sought to further investigate and collect evidence concerning the atrocities committed by the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF); analyze the evidence previously collected by BW to provide guidance on internationally-recognized standards for evidence; and develop a legal strategy for seeking accountability for these crimes. Utilizing decades of experience in domestic and international criminal law, PEJ provides critical legal support to the project that complemented BW’s expertise and advances the overall mission – seeking justice for victims of atrocities.

In 2018, PEJ began by training investigators on the foundation of international criminal law, and evidence collection practices. Since that time, PEJ has supported investigations in real time, by providing profiles of those that are scheduled to be interviewed, creating photo boards, prepare outlines of questions for investigators and identify additional avenues of investigation. After each part of the investigation, PEJ provides analysis of gathered materials, review of statements, and feedback to the team where warranted. Finally, the evidence gathered is catalogued and in our litigation management system and compiled in our global profile, a living document highlighting key players, financial resources, and other identifying indicia from the evidence amassed throughout the investigation.
PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

PEJ MODEL
SEEKING JUSTICE
AND ACCOUNTABILITY

TRAINING
• Aspects of International Criminal Law
• Collection and Preservation of Evidence
• Interview Techniques and Report Writing

MENTORING
• Tailored Programs Specific to each Partner
• Continued Capacity Building via Mentoring
• Ongoing Remote Guidance between Trainings

LEGAL CONSULTING
• Jurisdictional Mapping
• Drafting Legal Documents for Various Legal Forums

PROGRAM OUTPUTS FOR 2018

SUBMISSIONS
2
Submissions to the AACHPR & Communication to ACERWC

EVIDENCE
2800+
Documents, videos, photographs, and interviews collected from the Two Areas

INTERVIEWS
30+
Prepared 30+ witness statements produced from 60+ hours of audio from 6 Uganda/DRC mission trips supported

TRAINING
2800+
Cambodia – 10 Trainings
Sudan – 2 Trainings
Uganda/DRC – 1 Training

30+
Prepared 30+ witness statements produced from 60+ hours of audio from 6 Uganda/DRC mission trips supported

15
Cambodia – 10 Trainings
Sudan – 2 Trainings
Uganda/DRC – 1 Training
ThinkTech Hawaii - Seeking Justice and Combating Impunity (Line In The Law)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ufN4U55fYo

OUR TEAM

Cynthia Tai, Esq.
Executive Director

Kristin Rosella, Esq.
Legal & Program Director

Priyanka Chirimar
Kay Sides

OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Board President

Ravic Huso, Ambassador (Retired)
Board Member

Padmini Pandya
Board Secretary

Jennifer Busch, CPA
Board Treasurer

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Legal Consultant

Lea Kulnowski
Legal Consultant

Laura-Lou Moreau
Legal Consultant

OUC ADVISORY BOARD

Joyce Seelen

Gregory Jackson

Linda L. Walton
2018 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION & ACTIVITIES

Assets

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<tr>
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<th>2018</th>
<th>2017</th>
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<td>Less: Allowance</td>
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<tr>
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Liabilities and Net Assets

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<tr>
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<td>42,080</td>
<td>54,970</td>
<td>63,850</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Current Liabilities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net Assets</td>
<td>1,482</td>
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<td>Total Net Assets</td>
<td>123,566</td>
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<td>134,400</td>
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Statement of Functional Expenses

Program Services

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<td>Direct Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Indirect costs</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>39,000</td>
<td>97,000</td>
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Supporting Services

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<tr>
<td>Direct Services</td>
<td>39,000</td>
<td>97,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Indirect costs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>39,000</td>
<td>97,000</td>
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Statement of Cash Flows

Increase in Net Assets

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<tr>
<td>Change in fund balance</td>
<td>8,801</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total fund balances</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other income</td>
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<td>67,343</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>8,801</td>
<td>136,693</td>
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Beginning Net Assets

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beginning Net Assets</td>
<td>19,000</td>
<td>27,201</td>
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Ending Net Assets

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<th>2017</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ending Net Assets</td>
<td>17,799</td>
<td>35,454</td>
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WE NEED YOUR HELP

We could not do this work without your support, and we thank you for taking the time to learn about the organization. The task is extensive, and with your tax-deductible support, we can bring these atrocities to the forefront of the legal arena and pursue justice for the victims.

DONATE

You can donate directly online at www.ProjectExpediteJustice.org or if you would like to make a donation by cheque, please send it to:

Project Expedite Justice
74-5617 Pawai Place, Suite 208A
Kailua Kona, HI 96740

Please contact us if you would like to make other forms of donations:
• Electronic Transfer
• Employee Matching Gifts
• Workplace Giving
• Gifts in Honorarium
• Gifts in Kind

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Bridgeway Foundation
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Francis Jung
Fred Dosher
Gregory Townsend

Jacque Bailey
Kay Sides
Keiko Mollie Tai
Kristin Rosella
L. Stuart Vance
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