



Annual Report

CONTENTS

Message From Our Chairman of the Board.....	2
Mission	3
Model.....	4
Where We Work	5
Toolkit.....	6
Programs	7-12
Program Highlights	12
Press	12
Financial Statement	13
Our Team	14
We Need Your Help	15
Thank You to All of Our Donors.....	16



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



MISSION

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.



MODEL

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:



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



WHERE WE WORK



UNITED STATES

Through Liberty Shared's Legal Impact Hub and with pro bono law firms, PEJ assists victims of human trafficking and other forms of exploitation in bringing civil and criminal actions against American citizens or entities for compensation.

UNITED KINGDOM

Through Liberty Shared's Legal Impact Hub and with pro bono law firms, PEJ assists victims of human trafficking and other forms of exploitation in bringing civil and criminal actions against U.K. citizens or entities for compensation.

SUDAN

After training local lawyers and investigators in South Kordofan and Blue Nile States, PEJ provides action learning and case-focused strategic guidance to its partners on investigative planning, open source research, witness interviewing, chain of custody, and evidence collection and preservation.

SOUTH SUDAN

In partnership with a local organization, we are building the capacity of local human rights monitors to collect and preserve evidence of the ongoing conflict in South Sudan. After independence, civil war erupted in South Sudan as warring parties fought to control the country and its vast natural resources

FRANCE

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.

DRC/UGANDA BORDER

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.

CAMBODIA

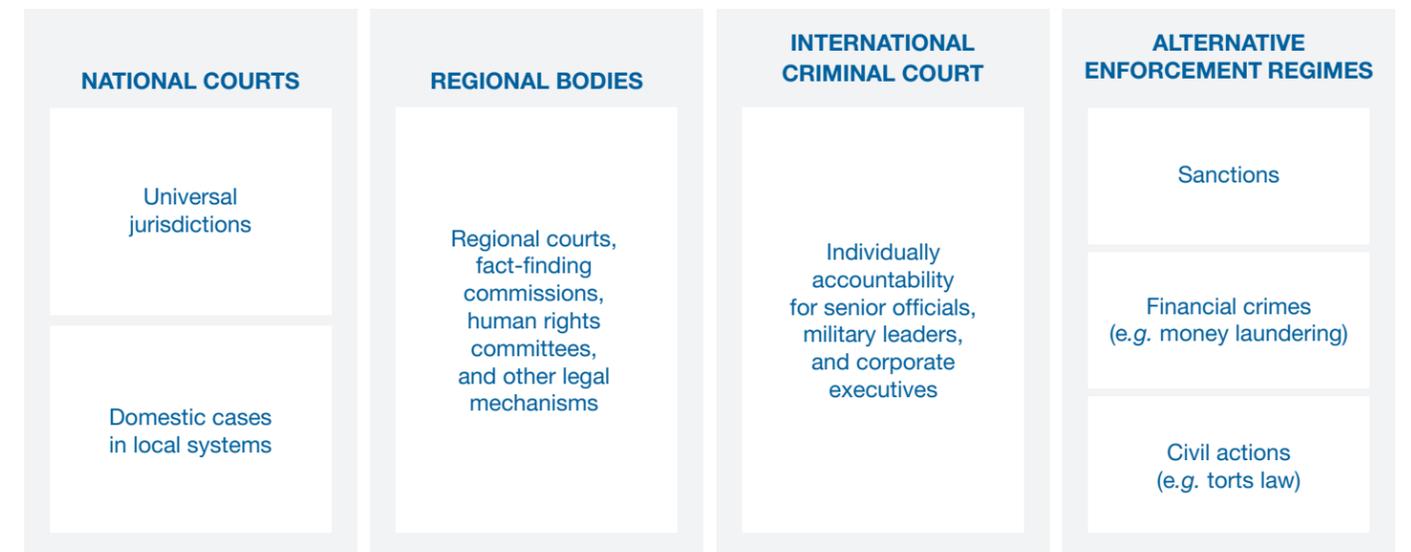
As a member of the Liberty Shared's Legal Impact Hub, PEJ assists with training, action learning, and strategic litigation to combat all forms of human trafficking and modern-day slavery in Southeast Asia.

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.



PROGRAMS



South Sudan. In South Sudan, the civil war rages on with no end in sight. Millions of citizens have fled. Since the outbreak 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 provided ongoing mentoring and guidance to support documentation efforts of the local South Sudanese human rights monitors as they collect witness statements across the country.



Amid increasing ethnic polarization, numerous experts have warned that the country is at risk of genocide.

TWO AREAS

PEJ'S PILOT PROGRAM: SUDAN & SOUTH SUDAN

CLIENTS



- FODAG (South Sudan)
- HUDO (Sudan)
- Nuba Reports (Sudan)
- Community leaders (Sudan and South Sudan)
- Survivors and their families (Sudan and South Sudan)

TRAINING



- Trained local NGOs and individual investigators in best practices for evidence collection and preservation
- Conducted on-the-job training throughout investigations
- Increased awareness about the intersection of atrocity crimes and financial crimes

INVESTIGATIVE GUIDANCE



- Collecting and preserving evidence of crimes and human rights violations in the Two Areas
- Collecting and preserving evidence of crimes and human rights violations in South Sudan
- Investigating role of financial institution in crimes in Sudan and South Sudan

LEGAL REPRESENTATION



- Assisted survivors in US sanctions case
- Explored US tort action against a bank on behalf of victims
- French criminal case against a bank complicit in atrocities
- Regional human rights mechanisms
- Global Magnitsky sanctions
- ICC Darfur case

South Kordofan and Blue Nile, 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.



SUDAN & SOUTH 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.

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.

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.

CAMBODIA

PEJ'S PROGRAM: CAMBODIA



Cambodia. In 2017, the human rights and political situation in Cambodia has deteriorated, as the government trampled on free speech in the run up to the 2018 elections. This trend continues even after the Cambodian Supreme Court dissolved the main opposition party and arrested several party members and other activists. A considerable number of local and international NGOs have been threatened, and a few them have been targeted. The well-known and decades-old English language newspapers, the Cambodia Daily and Radio Free Asia were forcibly closed. This affects more than just political opponents, it also makes Cambodia ripe for a substantial increase in criminal activities, like human trafficking, and adds barriers for victims seeking justice.

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 to finance 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.



UGANDA / DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO



Uganda/Democratic Republic of Congo. 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



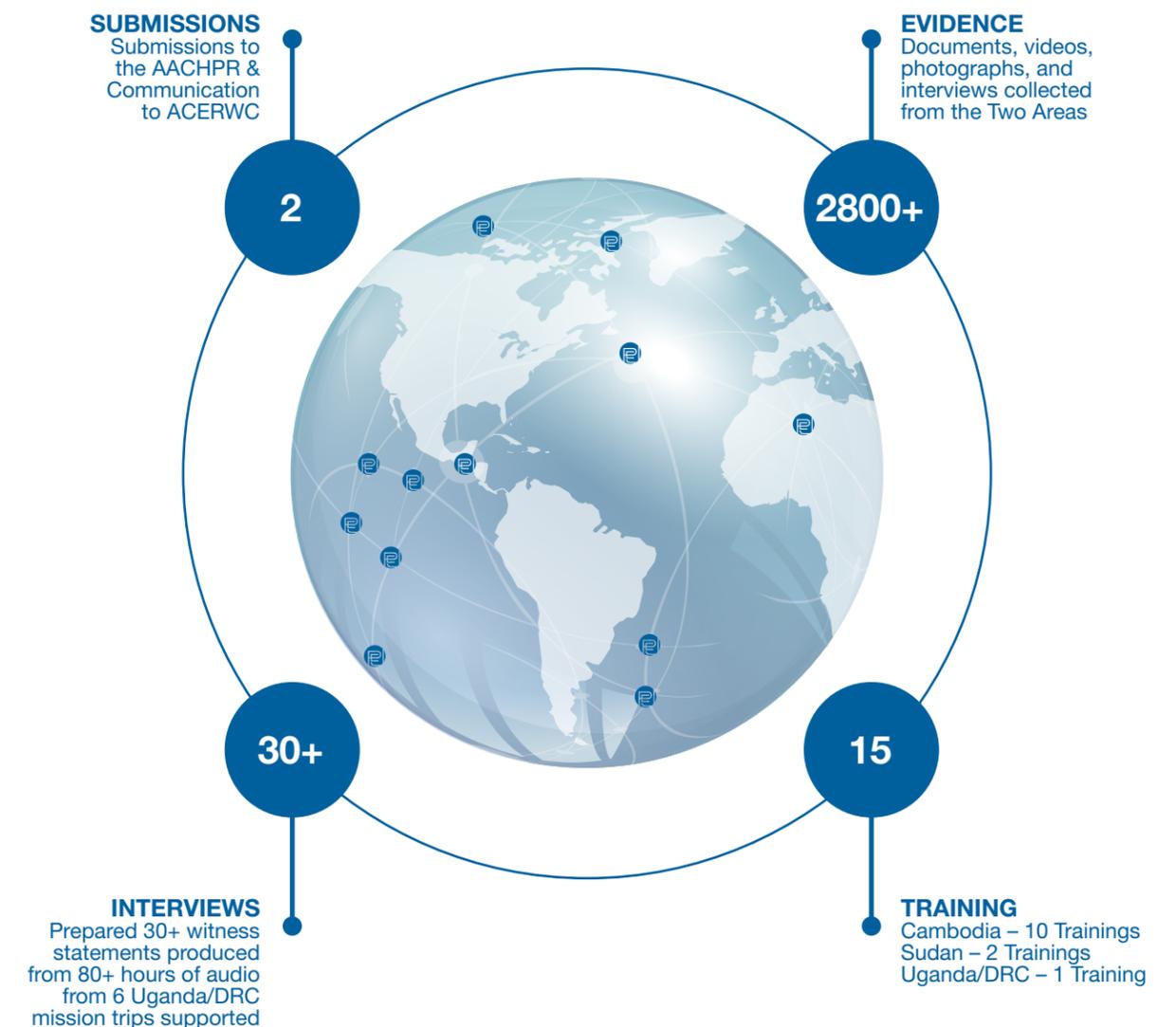
- Tailored Programs Specific to each Partner
- Continued Capacity Building via Mentoring
- Ongoing Remote Guidance between Trainings

LEGAL CONSULTING



- Jurisdictional Mapping
- Drafting Legal Documents for Various Legal Forums

PROGRAM OUTPUTS FOR 2018



PRESS



ThinkTech Hawaii - Seeking Justice and Combating Impunity (Line In The Law)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u6NY4U55tYo>

OUR TEAM

OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Judge David Wiseman
Board President

Padmini Pandya
Board Secretary

Jennifer Busch, CPA
Board Treasurer

Ravic Huso, Ambassador (Retired)
Board Member

OUR TEAM

Cynthia Tai, Esq.
Executive Director

Kristin Rosella, Esq.
Legal & Program Director

Jindan Mann
Legal Consultant

Léa Kulinowski
Legal Consultant

Laura-Lou Moreau
Legal Consultant

Katie Robayo
Administration

OUR ADVISORY BOARD

Priyanka Chirimar
Kay Sides

Gregory Jackson
Linda L. Walton

Joyce Seelen



2018 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION & ACTIVITIES

	2018	2017
Assets		
Current Assets		
Cash	\$ 172,684	\$ 108,436
Pledges receivable	-	3,575
Total Current Assets	<u>172,684</u>	<u>112,011</u>
Total assets	<u>\$ 172,684</u>	<u>\$ 112,011</u>
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts payable	\$ 47,088	\$ 24,671
Total Current Liabilities	<u>47,088</u>	<u>24,671</u>
Net Assets		
With donor restrictions	1,482	(6,885)
Without donor restrictions	124,114	94,225
Total Net Assets	<u>125,596</u>	<u>87,340</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u>\$ 172,684</u>	<u>\$ 112,011</u>

	Without Donor Restriction	With Donor Restriction	2018	2017
Support and Revenue				
Contributions	\$ 56,350	\$ 355,922	\$ 412,272	\$ 312,321
Consulting services	-	-	-	3,961
	<u>56,350</u>	<u>355,922</u>	<u>412,272</u>	<u>316,282</u>
Net Assets released from restrictions:				
Satisfaction of program restrictions	326,033	(326,033)	-	-
Total Support and Revenue	<u>382,383</u>	<u>29,889</u>	<u>412,272</u>	<u>316,282</u>
Expenses				
Program services	338,926	-	338,926	212,885
Supporting services:				
General and administrative	31,862	-	31,862	11,257
Fund-raising	3,228	-	3,228	4,800
Total Supporting Services	<u>35,090</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>35,090</u>	<u>16,057</u>
Total Expenses	<u>374,016</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>374,016</u>	<u>228,942</u>
Change in Net Assets	8,367	29,889	38,256	87,340
Beginning Net Assets	(6,885)	94,225	87,340	-
Ending Net Assets	<u>\$ 1,482</u>	<u>\$ 124,114</u>	<u>\$ 125,596</u>	<u>\$ 87,340</u>

STATEMENT OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES

	Program Services	Supporting Services		Total 2018	2017
		General and Administrative	Fund- Raising		
Legal and other professional fees	\$ 298,957	\$ 22,594	\$ 3,228	\$ 322,779	\$ 156,897
Travel, meals and entertainment	34,394	2,087	-	36,481	60,154
Office supplies and other	6,865	4,972	-	11,837	5,469
Telephone	310	306	-	616	3,753
Liability insurance	400	1,903	-	2,303	2,689
Total Expenses	<u>\$ 338,926</u>	<u>\$ 31,862</u>	<u>\$ 3,228</u>	<u>\$ 374,016</u>	<u>\$ 228,942</u>

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

	2018	2017
Cash Flows from Operating Activities		
Change in net assets	\$ 38,256	\$ 87,340
Adjustment to reconcile changes in net assets to net cash used in operating activities:		
(Increase) decrease in operating assets:		
Accounts receivable	3,575	(3,575)
Decrease in operating liabilities:		
Accounts payable	22,417	24,671
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>64,248</u>	<u>108,436</u>
Increase in Cash	64,248	108,436
Beginning Cash	108,436	-
Ending Cash	<u>\$ 172,684</u>	<u>\$ 108,436</u>



THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR DONORS

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.



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

DONATE

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

DONATE

A. Laura Waldo CPA, Inc.
Ann Marie Lambert
Anonymous
Bay and Paul Foundation
Betsee Isenberg
Bridgeway Foundation
Cynthia Tai
Denice and George Murphy
Francis Jung
Fred Doshier
Gregory Townsend

Jacque Bailey
Kay Sides
Keiko Mollie Tai
Kristin Rosella
L. Stuart Vance
Liberty Shared
Martin Pagotto
National Endowment for Democracy
Point Financial, Inc.
Robert Bosch Stiftung



CONNECT WITH US!

PROJECT EXPEDITE JUSTICE

office@projectexpeditejustice.org
74-5617 Pawai Place, Suite 208A
Kailua Kona, HI 96740

