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*Photo Credit: Collin Sekajugo, Winner of Human Rights Award, 2019, Uganda*
2019 has been an exciting year of progress in many areas. Our “give” is our legal skills and our passion for fairness and access to justice. PEJ uses all available legal options to seek justice in national, regional or international fora to amplify the voices of survivors and provide technical-knowledge based support for populations that need it most.

As the founder of PEJ, I am frequently asked, “what inspired you to do this work with people so far away?” Understandably, mass atrocities are a hard thing to wrap your head around. Oftentimes, our own feelings of helplessness are our worst enemies. At PEJ, our answer is that we don’t want to live in a world where conflict and violence are the new norm. Our deepest conviction is that we have both a responsibility to remember and protect. Mass atrocities are not inevitable or unstoppable unless we choose to let them happen.

During my career, I’ve had the great privilege of spending time with people in many different countries, usually in conflict or post-conflict zones, who have risked their lives to hide others or stand up when they knew something was wrong, and at great price. I wanted to understand why they cared, and what was special about them that caused them to do extraordinary things. Why them, and more importantly, why not everyone?

The common thread in each of their answers, was “but what else could I do.” For each of them, they did not view themselves as heroes -- to them, there were simply no other options. Each of these people believed they could affect change.

For each of us, the responsibility and the choice have been, and always will be ours. We at PEJ remain optimistic and steadfast in our commitment to amplify the voices of survivors. Now more than ever, we are leaning in. We hope you share our commitment to making the world more peaceful and sustainable than ever before.
ABOUT US

Established in 2015, Project Expedite Justice (PEJ) is a non-profit organization working on transitional justice, leveraging expertise in international criminal law, and filling gaps within various accountability processes. In countries of implementation, PEJ partners with national organizations, legal groups, and communities to conduct legal research and analysis and pursue innovative legal strategies. Working with local partners, PEJ collects and analyzes evidence, builds case files, identifies the available judicial mechanisms for cases, drafts legal submissions, and represents victims and survivors in legal proceedings.

Photo Credit: Drought, Mil Chhankrim, Cambodia
2019 AT A GLANCE

BRIEFS FILED

2

ARTICLES OF EVIDENCE COLLECTED + CATALOGUED

2,698

ADVOCACY REPORTS PRODUCED

3

INVESTIGATIVE REPORTS

68

Photo Credit: Remember the blood and souls the way is long, Galal Yousif, Sudan
OUR PROJECTS

05

SUDAN 6
SOUTH SUDAN 11
CAMBODIA 17
UGANDA/DRC 19
“THE OPPOSITE OF LOVE IS NOT HATE, IT’S INDIFFERENCE.” - ELIE WIESEL
Since the start of the conflict in 2011, the people of the South Kordofan and Blue Nile States of Sudan (Two Areas) have suffered a campaign of aerial bombardment and a blockade of humanitarian aid. More than 4,000 bombs have been dropped. Not only have these bombs killed people, destroyed crops, and devastated the region’s already limited infrastructure, they have disrupted agricultural activity and created a humanitarian crisis.

Since 2017, PEJ has been assisting local partners as they harvest evidence for analysis and preservation. In 2019, PEJ partnered with Nuba Reports, now known as Gisa Group, to archive evidence collected in the Two Areas. The process included volumes of digital visual evidence dating from 2011-2016. Each video had to be uploaded, logged, and tagged with detailed information, including dates and locations of incidents. Ultimately, this evidence may be used to pursue accountability. This project is ongoing, and we anticipate the materials to be fully catalogued by the end of 2021.

In addition, PEJ organized, tagged, and archived 782 documents that were collected by investigators and others in the Two Areas. To date, PEJ has reviewed, analyzed, and archived about 2075 documents.
In March 2019, the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC), a regional human rights mechanism, admitted PEJ’s August 2018 Communication Regarding Human Rights Violations Against Sudanese Children in South Kordofan and Blue Nile States. This Communication, filed with partners, highlighted the egregious human rights violations that Sudanese children endured between 2011-2018.

PEJ received the Admissibility Ruling on September 19, 2019. The Government of Sudan then had 60 days to submit arguments on the merits of our Communication, but given the political situation, an extension until January 2020 was granted.

Throughout this period, PEJ continued to monitor the progression of the process and communicated our intent to participate in a hearing with the ACERWC.
ACCOUNTABILITY OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

FILING OF A CRIMINAL COMPLAINT AGAINST BNP PARIBAS

Accountability does not solely involve the criminal prosecution of the actors who intervened directly in the conflict, i.e. the Sudanese government, but also of those who indirectly participated in or provided critical and financial support to the regime.

In September 2019, PEJ, with the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) and other partners, filed a criminal complaint on behalf of nine Sudanese victims against BNP Paribas, S.A. for alleged complicity in genocide, crimes against humanity, and torture committed by the Sudanese authorities, and related financial crimes of money laundering and concealment.

We filed this complaint before the dean of the investigating judges of the Paris court and held a joint press conference immediately afterward. We expect that it will take at least six months to receive a decision.
"IF YOU ARE NEUTRAL IN SITUATIONS OF INJUSTICE, YOU ARE TAKING THE SIDE OF THE OPPRESSOR." - DESMOND TUTU
When South Sudan became independent in 2011, there was hope that the split would mark the close of a bloody period in the history of both South Sudan and Sudan and bring in an era of peace.

However, these hopes were soon dashed and civil unrest continued. The violence has left an estimated 50,000 dead and displaced an estimated 2.4 million people.

In 2019, PEJ continued its partnership with a local organization in South Sudan documenting ongoing human rights violations in various states. PEJ trained the monitors to collect witness statements and draft investigative reports. Upon receipt of these reports, PEJ provided feedback to improve the interview process. The reports were then compiled and analyzed to produce an advocacy reports that were published anonymously.

- **1** FIVE-DAY TRAINING
- **8** HUMAN RIGHTS MONITORS TRAINED
- **68** REPORTS
- **3** ADVOCACY REPORTS
“WE CAN CHOOSE TO BE AFFECTED BY THE WORLD OR WE CAN CHOOSE TO AFFECT THE WORLD.” -HEIDI WILLIS
Cambodia is a source, transit, and destination country for men, women, and children subjected to sex trafficking, including child sexual exploitation & abuse, forced marriage, and forced labor. Since 2017, PEJ and its partner, Liberty Shared have been building the Legal Impact Hub -- a platform that brings together a targeted group of stakeholders from different sectors to combat human trafficking and all forms of exploitation in Cambodia. We apply a human rights-based approach, placing victims’ rights and needs first and addressing the gaps in access to justice and aftercare.

In 2019, we continued to build the capacity of local partners in new legal strategies, especially with respect to victim compensation and cross-border litigation, and provide direct legal services of the highest quality to survivors. Currently, more than 10 local NGOs are members of the Hub.
UGANDA/DRC

"THE SUFFERING OF THE PEOPLE OF ANY SINGLE COUNTRY AFFECTS ALL OF US NO MATTER WHERE WE FIND OURSELVES."

- NELSON MANDELA

Photo Credit: Collin Sekajugo, Winner of Human Rights Award, 2019, Uganda
In 2019, PEJ, with its partner Bridgeway Foundation, continued investigating the activities of an armed militia group, the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), where 3.9 million people have been displaced. PEJ supported six field missions in real-time by prepping profiles of interviewees and questions for investigators and identifying potential investigative avenues. We also analyzed the evidence collected, reviewed statements, conducted open source investigation, and provided feedback to the investigation team.

Before each field mission, PEJ conducted data and legal analysis to identify informational gaps in the investigation and provided targeted guidance to efficiently secure evidence that could bridge these gaps. In total, PEJ and its partners collected 31 witness statements based on the interviews of 18 individuals, which included 14 insiders and 4 victims. This evidence was then analyzed and added to PEJ's secure database, CaseMap, as well as the Global Profile of the ADF organization, which encompasses the totality of investigative information PEJ and Bridgeway Foundation amassed in a narrative form.

Presently, the Global Profile is over 452 pages, and the CaseMap database currently consists of almost 3,000 objects, which include over 1,700 pieces of evidence, nearly 850 people, nearly 300 places, about 100 legal issues, and almost 1400 facts.
EVIDENCE DATABASE
ANALYZED & SECURELY STORED IN CASE MAP

414 Debriefs
245 Photographs
198 Intercepts
108 Notes
174 Audio
203 News Articles

ADF Propaganda: 4  |  Interviews: 74  |  Tweets: 23
Articles: 13  |  Videos: 87  |  Witness Sketches: 15
Maps: 7  |  Profiles: 5  |  Website Screenshots: 30
Screening Notes: 27  |  Letters/Instructions: 3
Photo Boards: 10  |  Transcripts: 44  |  UN Reports: 14
DONORS

ANONYMOUS
BAY AND PAUL FOUNDATION
BRIDGEWAY FOUNDATION
LAREN AND COURTNEY POOLE FAMILY FUND
NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR DEMOCRACY
ROBERT BOSCH STIFTUNG
STANLEY AND ANITA HIRSCH TRUST

We also thank our other individual donors for their generous contributions.

PARTNERS

AFRICAN CENTRE FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE STUDIES
THE AL KHATIM ADLAN CENTRE FOR ENLIGHTENMENT & HUMAN DEVELOPMENT (KACE)
SPIRIT OF CAN.
LIGUE DES DROITS DE L'HOMME
GISA GROUP
INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS (FIDH)
HORN OF AFRICA CIVIL SOCIETY FORUM
INTERNATIONAL REFUGEE RIGHTS INITIATIVE
LIBERTY SHARED
NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS MONITORS ORGANIZATION
REFUGEE LAW PROJECT
SUDAN HUMAN RIGHTS MONITOR

Photo Credit: 869 Days, Van Chhorvorn, Cambodia
FINANCIAL SUMMARY

SUPPORT & REVENUE

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ASSETS

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Photo Credit: Weaving Cultures, Sandra Antongiorgi (Collaboration with Sam Kirk), Puerto Rico
PROJECT EXPEDITE JUSTICE

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Judge David A. Wiseman – President
Jennifer Busch – Treasurer
Padmini Pandya – Secretary
Ravic Huso, U.S. Ambassador (Retired) - Member

BOARD OF ADVISORS

Priyanka Chirimar
Gregory Jackson
Joyce Seelen
Kay Sides
Linda L. Walton

TEAM

Cynthia Tai, esq. – Executive Director
Kristin Rosella, esq. – Legal & Program Director
Laura-Lou Moreau – Senior Legal Consultant
Sopheakmonica (Monica) Sok – Legal Consultant
Jindan-Karena (Nina) Mann – Legal Consultant
Lea Kulinowski – Senior Legal Consultant
Nicolás Süssman – Junior Legal Consultant
Atitheap Meas – Junior Legal Consultant
Katie Robayo – Finance & Grants Manager
Gregory Townsend – Specialized Legal Consultant
Ben Batros – Specialized Legal Consultant

Photo Credit: Silent Lightning, Cece Carpio, The Philippines
ARTWORK PROVIDED BY ART ACTIVISTS FROM AFGHANISTAN, CAMBODIA, ETHIOPIA, PUERTO RICO, PHILIPPINES, SOUTH SUDAN, SUDAN AND UGANDA.

Photo Credit: Nahosenay Negussie, Ethiopia
PROJECT EXPEDITE JUSTICE
2019 ANNUAL REPORT

Project Expedite Justice is US 501(c)3 registered nonprofit organization

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Photo Credit: Artlords, Omaid Sharifi, Afghanistan