

Human Rights
Advocates Program
2008 Program Report

Overview

The 20th year of the Human Rights Advocates Program (HRAP) continued a long tradition of strengthening the skills, knowledge and networks of proven grassroots human rights leaders from the Global South and marginalized communities in the United States.

The HRAP curriculum is defined by academic coursework, skills-building workshops, and networking opportunities with the human rights communities in New York and DC. Through a competitive selection process, six human rights leaders were selected from more than 150 applications. They came from Liberia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Mexico, Indonesia, India and the United States to share and deepen their expertise on a number of issues including minority rights, natural resource extraction, gender-based violence, LGBTQ rights, trade, and labor rights.

This year, the Program underwent a series of staff changes. In late August, Stephanie V. Grepo joined the program as the Director of Capacity Building following the departure of Silvia Fernandez, who had worked at the Center in various capacities, including most recently as Interim Director of Capacity Building. A recent graduate of the School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA) at Columbia University, Kristina Eberbach served as Program Coordinator of HRAP from August through December 2008.

Orientation

The Advocates arrived in mid-August 2008. They began the program with a two-week orientation that introduced them to HRAP, New York City and Columbia University.

During the orientation, the Advocates discussed their goals with HRAP staff, reviewed fall classes at Columbia University, and brainstormed on networking opportunities. They met with CSHR Director Elazar Barkan and Associate Director Yasmine Ergas. The founding director of CSHR, Barnard Professor J. Paul Martin, provided the Advocates with an overview of HRAP and advised them on how they could make the most of the program.

As part of the orientation, the Advocates toured the Morningside Campus. Along the way, they were introduced to the human rights resources available at the University and they visited Lehman Library. They attended the African Law Student Association Orientation Dinner and a luncheon organized by the Gender and Sexuality Law Program at Columbia Law School.

Two of the many skills-building workshops planned for the Advocates began during orientation: **Research**



Advocates Anbu Sengo Arasi and Carolina Delgado at the welcoming reception for the 2008 Advocates.

and Documentation at Human Rights Watch and a fundraising course. The Advocates also visited the Foundation Center, which is located in downtown New York City, for an introduction to the fundraising resources available at the Center's library.

The group also attended its first networking opportunity. The West Harlem Environmental Group kindly hosted the Advocates. On the last day of orientation, the Advocates attended a panel discussion at the United Nations entitled "The Human Right to Food and the Global Food Crisis: Root Causes and Responses."

Skills for Human Rights Advocacy

As part of the Program's efforts to help the Advocates succeed in their advocacy efforts, the Program organized a series of skills-building workshops and courses. This year, we welcomed new instructors from organizations including Amnesty International and the International Center for Transitional Justice. We continued to work with long-standing partners such as Human Rights Watch and WITNESS.

Human Rights Skills and Advocacy

The Advocates participated in a class at SIPA entitled "Human Rights Skills and Advocacy." Led by Jo Becker, the Advocacy Director for Children's Rights at Human Rights Watch, this course was designed to develop practical advocacy skills to protect and promote human rights. The class encouraged the Advocates to develop an advocacy strategy on a current human rights issue, including the identification of goals and objectives, appropriate advocacy targets, and appropriate methods. The Advocates explored broad-based human rights campaigns, the use of the media, and advocacy with United Nations bodies, the U.S. government, and the private sector. Over the course of the semester, the Advocates became familiar with a variety of tools they can apply to their respective human rights campaigns.

Fundraising

Sara Kriksciun led a semester-long course entitled "Building Sustainable Organizations." Sara has worked as a professional fundraiser for more than 12 years with international humanitarian and development NGOs and international schools, most recently serving as Executive Director of Strategic Partnerships for CARE International. The course guided the Advocates through the cultivation cycle of major gift donors to ensure that fundraising efforts are streamlined, effective, strategic, and fruitful. The Advocates developed skills in donor engagement, strategic planning, and proposal and letter of inquiry writing. The course also helped students lay the groundwork for the long-term sustainability of their organizations by addressing the development of strategic business plans, long-term planning and tips for healthy and sustainable organizational growth.

The Advocates also learned about fundraising through a four-session workshop with Erik Detiger, who has over a decade of experience working in the field of international philanthropy and fundraising. Erik worked with interested Advocates on fine-tuning their organizations' fundraising plans and grant proposals, many of which were submitted to donors while the Advocates were still in New York. Erik is currently advising the International Center for Transitional Justice and Social Accountability International. He has raised nearly \$100 million for a variety of international projects from over 40 foundations, government agencies, and institutions.

Research and Documentation

Human Rights Watch Senior Researchers Lisa Misol and Diederik Lohman offered a six-week course on Human Rights Research and Documentation. The course included the following topics: conceptualization of a research project, interviewing victims and witnesses, interviewing perpetrators and accomplices, and writing. Based on the interests of the 2008 Advocates, this course also addressed issues of business and human rights and the right to health.

Video Advocacy

The Advocates travelled to WITNESS in Brooklyn where they attended a one-day workshop led by Violeta Krasnic. Violeta demonstrated the vital role that video can play in advocacy campaigns without great expense or the involvement of video professionals. She also introduced them to The Hub, which is WITNESS' new video community for human rights, where videos about human rights can be uploaded, watched, and shared. Violeta worked as a gender violence counselor in the former Yugoslavia and organized campaigns to strengthen civil initiatives against nationalism and war. In the U.S., Violeta has conducted research and advocacy on the global impact of U.S. government foreign policy on women's human rights.

Campaign/Organizing Methods

Ana Polanco, the Stop Violence Against Women Campaign Director at Amnesty International, offered a workshop on the following topics: outreach, domestic and international coalition building, and organizing a campaign on a budget. Prior to joining Amnesty, Ana spent 10 years with the labor movement as a political activist and lobbyist, working to expand the economic, social and political opportunities for working families and immigrant communities.

Campaign Strategy and Development

Yasmine Ergas, Associate Director of CSHR, worked with the Advocates over four sessions on their plans for strategic campaigns they planned to implement once they returned home. The Advocates presented their plans and referred to the methods, skills and knowledge they were acquiring through the Program.

Presentation Skills

Joann Baney led a one-day workshop on presentation skills for the Advocates. An adjunct professor at SIPA, she is also on the faculty of both the New York Police Department's Police Management



As Advocate Peter Mulbah listens, Yvette Mendez of Handcrafting Justice speaks about fair trade products.

Institute and the Fire Department of New York's Officers Management Institute, as well as a variety of other programs through Columbia's Institute for Not-For-Profit Management.

Stress, Trauma and Renewal

A psychiatric social worker and consultant to the United Nations on the support of emergency relief workers, Sheila Platt offered a two-day workshop on understanding stress, trauma and renewal from the perspective of human rights workers. Advocates reflected upon their own experiences and learned how to care for themselves while they care for others.

English Language Skills

Three of the Advocates strengthened their English language skills through a full semester of English as a Second Language class at Teachers College.

Networking

Panels, Talks and Brownbags Featuring the Advocates

Labor Rights Abuses in the Colombian Flower Industry by Carolina Delgado. Sponsored by the Institute of Latin American Studies at SIPA.

Extreme Violence Against Women in the Congo featuring Dr. Roger Lahiriri. Sponsored by the Enough Project and the Center for American Progress.

Women's Health In Post-War Democratic Republic Of Congo featuring Dr. Roger Lahiriri. Sponsored by The Global Information Network.

Rape and Sexual Violence in the Eastern DRC Conflict: What We Still Need to Know featuring Dr. Roger Lahiriri. Sponsored by the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative.

Amnesty International's *Campaign To Pass The International Violence Against Women Act in U.S. Congress* featuring Dr. Roger Lahiriri. Sponsored by the College of New Jersey chapter of Amnesty International.

Building a Future for Liberia through Empowerment by Peter Mulbah. Sponsored by the Institute of African Studies at SIPA.

Quota Is Not Enough by Amalia Pulungan. Sponsored by the Columbia University Undergraduate Human Rights Program.



Advocate Dr. Roger Lahiriri spoke at a panel discussion discussing extreme violence against women in the Congo. NYC and DC discussions were organized by The Enough Project which also unveiled its campaign, RAISE Hope for Congo: Protect and Empower Congo's Women.

Global Justice And Trade-Related Intellectual Properties - Developing Countries' Perspective with Amalia Pulungan. Sponsored by Southeast Asia Student Initiative at SIPA.

Discrimination Based on Gender, Sexual Orientation, and HIV/AIDS in Southeastern Mexico by Dr. Alejandro Rivera. Sponsored by the Institute of Latina American Studies at SIPA.

Discrimination Based on Gender, Sexual Orientation, HIV/AIDS and Other Challenges in the Human Rights Field in Chiapas, Mexico by Dr. Alejandro Rivera. At the Fund for Global Human Rights.

Human Rights for All, Discrimination for No One by Dr. Alejandro Rivera. Sponsored by the SIPA Human Rights Working Group.

University Talks

If Not Mere Metaphor... Sexual Economies Reconsidered. Sponsored by the Gender & Sexuality Law Program at Columbia University.

Modernity's Miss-Fits: Blind Girls and Marriage in France and America, 1820-1920. Sponsored by the Program for the Study of Sexuality, Gender, Health, and Human Rights at Columbia University.

African Diplomatic Forum: Political Mediation in Africa: Lessons Learned and the Challenges Ahead. Sponsored by The Institute of African Studies and the SIPA Pan-African Network.

The Battle of Ideas Still Rages: Attacks on Academic Freedom in the 21st Century. Sponsored by CSHR.

Lunch and Discussion with the 2008 Human Rights Watch Human Rights Defender Awardees. Sponsored by CSHR and Human Rights Watch.

We the Peoples: Indigeneity in Globalization. Sponsored by CSHR and the Secretariat of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

Other Talks/Events

Health as a Human Right: Rights, Roles, and Responsibilities. Sponsored by Carnegie Council for Ethics in International Affairs.

Millennium Development Goals - Are They Fair to Women? Sponsored by the United Nations University Midday Forum.

The Price of Dignity: Human Rights and Global Economics. Sponsored by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Department of Public Information, and the NGO Committee on Human Rights.

The Human Right to Food and the Global Food Crisis: Root Causes and Responses. Sponsored by The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Department of Public Information, the NGO Committee on Human Rights and the Permanent Missions of Cuba and Malawi.

World AIDS Day 2008. Sponsored by the Center for Comprehensive Care at St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital and NiteStar.

World AIDS Day 2008. Sponsored by Riverside Church.

Social Events

The 2008 Advocates also had the opportunity to develop strong relationships during their time in New York with professors, students, and other members of the broader human rights community. The 2008 Advocates wished to thank all of those who facilitated their integration into the Columbia University community and made them feel welcome in a country most were visiting for the first time. HRAP board members Zelma

Henriques, Joan Ferrante, and Judy Gearhart kindly opened their homes to the Advocates by hosting dinners in their honor. The founding director of CSHR, Barnard Professor J. Paul Martin, organized a potluck dinner at his home for the Advocates and students in the Liberal Studies MA program in Human Rights. The Human Rights concentration at SIPA also invited the Advocates to its annual fall retreat.

Visits to NGOs, Foundations, and Other Relevant Organizations

Group Visits in New York City

Amnesty International
Business & Human Rights Resource Center
Handcrafting Justice
Human Rights Watch
International Center for Transitional Justice
Open Society Institute
Realizing Rights
Sauti Yetu
United Methodist Committee on Relief-NGO
West Harlem Environmental Group
WITNESS

Individual Meetings in New York City

American Jewish World Service
Astraea National Lesbian Action Foundation
Center for Reproductive Rights
Comprehensive Care Center at St. Luke's Roosevelt Hospital
Engender Health
Fund for Global Human Rights
Gay Men's Health Crisis
Global Information Network
Grassroots Global Justice Alliance
Housing Works
Human Rights Watch-Children's Division
New World Foundation
NiteStar Program/STAR Theatre
Overbrook Foundation
Physicians for Human Rights
Realizing Rights
Revenue Watch
ROC NYC
Social Accountability International
Survivors of Torture
Trade Unionists in Solidarity with Colombia



Advocates joined students of Columbia's School of International and Public Affairs Human Rights Concentration on their annual fall retreat.

U.S. – Cuba Labor Exchange
Wellspring Advisors

Group Visits in Washington, DC

Advocacy Project
Fund for Global Human Rights
National Endowment for Democracy
World Bank Inspection Panel

Individual Meetings in Washington, DC

Advocates for Youth
Africare
Center for International Environmental Law
Center for Health and Gender Equity (CHANGE)
Enough Project
Human Rights Watch
International Budget Partnership of the Center on Budget and Policy
International Commission for Dalit Rights
International Labor Rights Fund
International Teamsters
Legal Momentum
Physicians for Human Rights
Public Citizen
Survivor Corps
Unitarian Universalist Holdeen India Program
United States African Development Foundation
Washington Office on Latin America
World Resources Institute

Academic Coursework

Seminar on Human Rights and Globalization

A series of discussions led by renowned Columbia University faculty members and experts from outside the University provided the Advocates with a broad framework for understanding and analyzing human rights in the context of globalization. The 2008 seminar discussions included:

- Inter-American Human Rights System – Caroline Bettinger-Lopez, Deputy Director, Human Rights Institute and Lecturer in Law & Clinical Staff Attorney, Human Rights Clinic, Columbia Law School
- Human Rights and Gender Violence – Sally Merry, Professor of Anthropology, New York University
- The Idea of Human Rights – Samuel Moyn, Professor of History, Columbia University

University Courses

In 2008, Advocates audited the following courses at Columbia University:

School of Public Health

- Seminar on Gender, Sexuality, Health & Human Rights
- Health Policy in the Global Context
- Public Health and Humanitarian Affairs

School of International and Public Affairs

- Issues in Rural Development
- New Media in Development Communications

Law School

- Human Rights
- Labor Rights in a Global Economy
- Environmental Justice & Sustainable Development

Program Administration

In late August, Stephanie V. Grepo joined the program as the Director of Capacity Building following the departure of Silvia Fernandez, who had worked at the Center in various capacities, including most recently as Interim Director of Capacity Building. A recent graduate of the School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA) at Columbia University, Kristina Eberbach served as Program Coordinator of HRAP from August through December 2008.

Stephanie returned to her native New York in 2007 after serving with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe throughout the Balkans for seven years. She worked on the organization of elections and civic education in Kosovo, developed confidence-building projects in the former crisis region of Macedonia, facilitated refugee return and civil society development in Croatia, and created multi-ethnic educational opportunities in Serbia. She earned a master's degree in Human Rights from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University.

Support

HRAP would like to thank the following for their generous support this year:

General Service Foundation

Open Society Institute—Africa Initiatives

American Jewish World Service

Sperry Fund

Whitney M. Young Foundation

Comments from 2008 HRAP Participants

General

The Human Rights Advocates program is such a unique program that every potential Human Rights Advocate will want the opportunity. The program has served as eye opener to many other things that I never could happen upon during work back home. The most important aspect of this program is the level to which I have able to expand my networks, I personally believe success as a Human Rights Advocate depends on whom you know and who knows you. This can enhance my work when I return to my country. I have also realized that the people I have been exposed are likely to be those I will meet in prominent position as world leaders, thus giving me the hope to affect changes now and the future. —Peter Mulbah, Liberia

The program was extremely useful for me. The trips to the board members' homes were very good and I thank Professors Judy Gearhart, Zelma Henriques, and Joan Ferrante for hosting us at their homes. HRAP helped me to develop my skills and increased my self-confidence. The networking will help my organization to work on more issues. I will continue my relationship with the CSHR in future. —Anbu Sengo Arasi, India

I have specially enjoyed meeting the other Advocates and getting to know them—sharing our experiences and learning from them. We have created bonds that will last a lifetime. —Carolina Delgado, USA

The most important things have been the opportunities to speak about my work, to learn about fundraising, and to learn about the various strategies implemented by distinguished leaders of NGOs. —Alejandro Rivera, Mexico

Networking

I really appreciated HRAP because of the program's flexibility and networking opportunities. My mentor was very helpful to me throughout my stay at Columbia University. She traveled a lot but she responded to all my emails and gave me advice. She was very kind to me. —Dr. Roger Luhiriri, Democratic Republic of Congo

Immigrant Women Program of Legal Momentum and I had a very productive meeting. I presented the program my organization is in the process of launching to develop the leadership skills of women of color in my community. They were very receptive to my work and we agreed to integrate their trainings in the near future, once the program is more advanced. I was invited to participate at their upcoming bi-annual conference in November 2009. —Carolina Delgado, USA

The meeting with the Columbia Center for New Media Teaching and Learning (CCNMTL) went great. I am in the process of submitting an application [to them] to document my campaign [on Colombian flower workers]. Professors Mark Barenberg and Peter Rosenblum [of the Columbia Law School] are also involved. —Carolina Delgado, USA

I was invited by my mentor, Peter Rosenblum, to attend a talk at Columbia Law School by the Liberian Designated Minister of State for Presidential Affairs. I asked the official if he could commit that the President would sign the National Forestry Reform Law (which addresses community rights) upon her return, and

he said that the president would. After the lecture, Peter Rosenblum and I spoke to him to further reaffirm his commitment and to see how best I could contact him upon my return to Liberia. The problem is that it is hard to get in touch with this official in Liberia. However, through my mentor, I was able to establish a direct link with him so that when I get back to Liberia, I will be able to contact him. Two weeks after the lecture, the Minister sent me an email informing me that the President signed the law. —Peter Mulbah, Liberia

Skills-based Workshops

I've learned Advocacy strategies, fundraising skills including proposal writing and letter of inquiry writing, how to network with NGOs and foundations, interviewing skills through the Human Rights Watch workshop series and video advocacy through the WITNESS training. —Anbu Sengo Arasi, India

I enjoyed all of the workshops. The stress management workshop came at the time I was really stressed and I needed a break. This workshop is not only valuable to human rights advocates but also to those of us in leadership roles. I think this is something I will be able to share with my staff and other people in communities that I serve. —Peter Mulbah, Liberia

Knowledge

I learned a lot from my classes at the Mailman School of Public Health, especially from the class Public Health and Humanitarian Affairs. —Dr. Roger Luhiriri, DRC

Health Policy and Management helped me to understand globalization and its effects on the most poor and socially excluded populations. It also exposed me to the injustices and human rights abuses in some countries. Professor Muennig is extremely great and dynamic. —Dr. Alejandro Rivera, Mexico

Comments from HRAP's Partner Organizations

Peter Mulbah [HRAP 2008] is definitely an impressive person and an inspiration. He is the perfect Advocacy Project partner and we are equally excited to be working with him and the Center for the Study of Human Rights. —Tassos Coualoglou, Deputy Director, The Advocacy Project

The staff members of the Center for Health and Gender Equity gained a great deal from the visit from Dr. Luhiriri from DRC and Dr. Rivera from Mexico. As an organization that advocates for women's sexual and reproductive health and rights, CHANGE constantly looks for opportunities to learn about what is happening in other countries from the people working on the ground. These two advocates are clearly doing life-saving and life-changing work. Their moving testimonies have inspired us as we continue our efforts. Thank you for making such an important connection! —Mary Beth Hastings, Deputy Director, Center for Health and Gender Equity

I was on the 2008 Selection Committee for the Human Rights Advocates Program which of course meant reading through quite a bit of application material. I didn't mind it though – the applicants looked so good on paper I could hardly wait to meet them in person! I work for WITNESS, an US-based international human rights organization that empowers human rights defenders to use video and online technologies as tools for justice. For the past five years we've collaborated with the Center to provide training on video advocacy to each generation of advocates. So I was honored not only to finally meet the 2008 Advocates

but also to work with them in a training setting. I look forward to watching their videos and hearing about their advocacy successes! —Violeta Krasnic, Program Coordinator for Europe and Central Asia, WITNESS

I always value the opportunity to meet each group of HRAP advocates to learn about emerging and creative human rights initiatives around the world. —David Mattingly, Program Officer, Fund for Global Human Rights

As researchers at Human Rights Watch, we have been privileged to co-teach a course for the Human Rights Advocates Program. We are continually impressed by the quality of the human rights defenders that the Center recruits each year. The course is always a two-way street: we help them hone their research methodologies, and they share with us the inspiring work they do in their countries. —Diederik Lohman, Lisa Misol and Fred Abrahams, Senior Researchers, Human Rights Watch

The National Endowment for Democracy, especially the Africa program, has had a long and productive relationship with the Human Rights Advocates Program at Columbia. One of our early partners in Liberia, the Center for Law and Human Rights Education, was led by Benedict Sannoh, who went through the program. Over the years, we have since received many proposals from members of the program, and many current partners, such as Peter, have also benefited. We have even provided some support to a spin-off of the program, the West Africa Center for Human Rights, based in Accra. This is the most prestigious human rights program that I am aware of in the United States, and the quality of the participants suggests why that is so. We always look forward to meeting with the Advocates when they are in Washington, and look forward to continuing to support HRAP's work. —Dave Peterson, Senior Director, Africa Program, National Endowment for Democracy

The World Bank Inspection Panel regularly reaches out to scholars, academia and civil society, including the Advocates from the Human Rights Advocates Program of Columbia University, to increase awareness of its availability as an accountability mechanism for people affected by World Bank-financed projects. In 2008, Panel Executive Secretary Peter Lallas and Panel Operations Officer Serge Selwan participated in the introduction of the Panel, including its role, operations, procedures, and experience. Following the presentation, a question-and-answer session was held relating to the Panel's effectiveness and impact on people who feel harmed by a Bank-funded project. The Panel considers that meeting with the Advocates is an integral part of its outreach strategy to organizations based in the field, to inform them of the Inspection Panel mechanism as an available means to seek accountability and remedial measures to address concerns they have from a Bank-funded project. —Serge Selwan, Panel Operations Officer, The World Bank Inspection Panel



Advocates were invited to spend Thanksgiving at the home of HRAP Advisory Board Member Joan Ferrante.

2008 Advocate Biographies

Anbu Sengo Arasi • India

Program Officer

Tamil Nadu Women's Forum – <http://in.geocities.com/tnwforum>

Anbu Sengo Arasi is a Program Officer at the Tamil Nadu Women's Forum, where she defends the rights of Dalit women laborers and works to achieve gender justice. Through fact-finding missions, demonstrations, campaigns, and cooperative strategizing, Ms. Sengo Arasi addresses community concerns that have resulted from national or international policies and practices. Ms. Sengo Arasi has successfully lobbied on behalf of Dalit women affected by poorly implemented microcredit schemes by initiating international letter writing campaigns and peaceful demonstrations. She has publicized internationally how the implementation of Special Economic Zones encourages the presence of multinational companies but often results in unfair practices against women laborers, such as the uncompensated eviction of Dalit women in the Zones. To address this issue, Ms. Sengo Arasi has also pushed for a land redistribution scheme that would include Dalits. In confronting the status of Dalit women on a local and a global scale, Ms. Sengo Arasi is committed to strengthening Dalit women's movements and empowering local Dalit women to participate effectively in democratic processes.

Paola Carolina Delgado • United States of America

Membership Director

South Florida Jobs with Justice – <http://www.sfjwj.org>

As the Membership Director of South Florida Jobs with Justice (JwJ) based in Miami, Florida, Ms. Carolina Delgado advocates on behalf of South Florida immigrant and female workers in the Colombian flower industry. Her efforts to protect women's rights as workers include campaigning for fair wages and addressing both local and international injustices. Ms. Delgado has extensive experience building cross-border networks and spearheaded the Colombian Flower Workers Campaign, which led to the creation of the Flower Workers' Committee, a group of local students, activists, and trade unionists who



The 2008 Human Rights Advocates, left to right: Anbu Sengo Arasi, Alejandro Rivera, Carolina Delgado, Peter Mulbah, Amalia Pulungan, and Roger Luhiriri.

continue to push for workers' rights in the flower industry. A Colombian immigrant to the United States, Ms. Delgado has implemented several popular education programs tailored to women of color to encourage dialogue, solidarity, and coalition building. In her role as president of STITCH's Board of Directors, Ms. Delgado has furthered the organization's work on behalf of women in the Central American maquila sector and of immigrant women in the United States. She is the 2008 Whitney M. Young Fellow. The Whitney M. Young Fellowship is designed to foster a program that creates opportunities for students, staff, and faculty in the Columbia community to think about ideas and ways to improve race relations on campus.

Roger Luhiriri • Democratic Republic of Congo

Health Program Assistant

Panzi Hospital – <http://www.panzihospitalbukavu.org/>

Dr. Roger Luhiriri serves as a specialist physician in traumatic fistula at Panzi Hospital, one of the few centers for victims of sexual violence in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Dr. Luhiriri also helps to guide the hospital's other services for survivors of sexual violence, including psychological support, vocational training, and childcare. As a representative of Panzi Hospital, Dr. Luhiriri has built alliances between the Hospital and other nongovernmental organizations in the immediate area to encourage local participation in conflict resolution.

In addition to his work at Panzi Hospital, Dr. Luhiriri collaborates with *Synergie des Femmes pour les Victimes des Violences Sexuelles* (SFVS), a coalition of women's organizations addressing sexual violence against women. To address a growing need to support the caregivers of sexual violence survivors, Dr. Luhiriri has introduced a new Program of Psychological Assistance for Social Workers and Doctors. Dr. Luhiriri recently advocated this new initiative at the University of Toronto, where he studied women's human rights.

Peter Mulbah • Liberia

Executive Director

Skills and Agricultural Development Services

Peter Mulbah is the Executive Director of Skills and Agricultural Development Services (SADS) and works to protect the environmental rights of rural Liberians, especially those pertaining to deforestation by multinational logging corporations and the contamination of ground and surface water by mining practices. As SADS' Director, Mr. Mulbah oversees the organization's activities and has worked intensively to educate the people of Liberia about their rights regarding rural land tenure and to mobilize them to advocate for equitable solutions. In organizing participatory dialogues and town hall meetings that engage communities and government officials, Mr. Mulbah is committed to working towards a society where communities use non-violent conflict resolution methods. Additionally, Mr. Mulbah advocates for alternative means of sustenance in Liberia. He successfully lobbied the Liberian government to include indigenous groups in policy making regarding a new nationally protected area that initially threatened their traditional livelihoods. Mr. Mulbah continues to pressure the government to clearly define indigenous rights and relevant government obligations in more comprehensive legislation.

Amalia Pulungan • Indonesia

Program Officer

Institute for Global Justice

A Program Officer at the Institute for Global Justice in Indonesia, Amalia Pulungan links local leaders to international forums addressing the connections between education, trade, and local agriculture. In response to the impacts of international trade agreements, in 2003, Ms. Pulungan helped to mobilize a 2003 education effort directed at rural peasant populations across Indonesia to inform them of their rights and available resources. Ms. Pulungan is also a member of the Indonesian Peasant Organization (API), at which she has campaigned in support of farmers' rights. While she is a strong believer in engagement with the parliamentary process, Ms. Pulungan has also played a critical role in organizing the rural population in protest against WTO policies which forced Indonesia to import highly subsidized agricultural products from the Global North at the expense of local farmers. Prior to the WTO Ministerial meeting in Hong Kong in 2005, Ms. Pulungan brought together fishermen, migrant laborers, peasant groups, and the media to successfully protect agriculture tariffs on goods produced by marginalized groups in Indonesia.

Alejandro Rivera • Mexico

Vice-President and Adjunct Coordinator of Programming and Evaluation

Collective for Family Health

Dr. Rivera serves as Vice-President and Adjunct Coordinator of Programming and Evaluation at the Collective for Family Health (CIFAM). At CIFAM, Dr. Rivera advocates for communities of people marginalized for their age, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, or HIV/AIDS status in the state of Chiapas. To support this work, Dr. Rivera builds alliances with non-governmental organizations, public institutions, and foundations dedicated to supporting these communities. He has helped to create environments where young people are empowered to advocate for sexual and reproductive rights on a national level and has developed programs aimed at sensitizing medical and administrative personnel in jails to the harmful effects of abuse and discrimination. Additionally, Dr. Rivera has brought together networks of women and youth with HIV and AIDS that focus on advocacy and defense of their human rights. In 2004, Dr. Rivera was honored by the Mexican government with a national award highlighting his efforts to fight AIDS and to promote reproductive, sexual, and gender rights.

Center for the Study of Human Rights
Columbia University in the City of New York