



**Annual Report  
2014**

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## *LETTER FROM PRESIDENT OF AJAR*

**T**he past year has marked a consolidation of AJAR's ability to contribute to positive change in terms of the protection of human rights in the Asia region, particularly in our four focus countries, each of which continues to move through very different stages of transition from a history of mass human rights violations.

With the support of the European Union, AJAR and our partners in Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Myanmar and Timor-Leste brought torture survivors, activists and experts into a 'learning circle,' in which experiences and lessons shared and new strategies for combating torture developed. The circle then expanded into the four national contexts where activities in the major cities and remote areas transposed the learning into practice. The activities included national and international campaigns against torture, supporting legal aid lawyers to represent victims, healing workshops where women survivors gathered for the first time in the northern regions of Sri Lanka and conflict areas of Myanmar, and using a research base to push for internal police regulations guaranteeing access to a lawyer for those in custody in Indonesia.

AJAR's gender justice program worked with survivors in Indonesia, Timor-Leste and Myanmar, teaching them participatory research methodology that enabled them to share and record the stories of other survivors in a supportive, enabling environment. The continuing research is being used in advocacy efforts to combat gender based violations in conflict and post-conflict areas of all three countries.

As attacks on religious minorities increases across the region we brought together leaders from a range of religious groups in five countries to discuss the relevant issues in an international conference in Jakarta. The event was also attended by government officials, police and civil society experts, exploring the reasons for increasing violence and developing strategies for protection of minorities seeking to practice their beliefs in safety.

At the AJAR residential human rights training centre in Bali a broad range of trainings were held, including a focus on youth human rights defenders, transitional justice in the Asian context, remedied for violations of social, economic and cultural rights and the use of media and film for defending human rights. The AJAR collaboration with the Pyoe Pin project in Myanmar created the 8 hour TV series *The Sun, the Moon and the Truth*, which is being viewed by millions, on public television across the country, bringing a 'soap opera' approach to rights, gender, democracy and transition issues through a drama set in a small legal aid office.

During the past year the opportunities for positive change, democratic space and demands for accountability showed clear signs of improvement in some of AJAR's focus contexts, whilst taking deeper steps into authoritarian rule in others. In each of the four focus countries the lesson was clear: climbing out of the muddy quagmire created by authoritarian rule and mass human rights violations is a massive, complex and time consuming challenge. The good news stories need to be celebrated but in each transition will be counterbalanced by regression.

The old actors appear to be hidden but in many cases are simply waiting for new opportunities when they will emerge wearing new uniforms but using the same methodologies and relying on the same group of cronies and supporters.

AJAR's base assumptions and strategies remain solid in the face of these emerging issues. Sustainable positive change will not take within a short time frame in fragile new democracies, so our assistance needs to be ongoing, building and deepening relationships and linkages between stakeholders. National actors who struggle to defend human rights, including survivors of violations, are the key agents of change in these contexts as their vigil remains constant and long-term. We need to be beside them, providing support as friends, knowing when to offer a hand and when it is better for them to walk alone.

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**Patrick Burgess**  
**President of AJAR**

## ***ABOUT US***

Asia Justice and Rights (AJAR) is a non-profit organization whose aim is to contribute to the strengthening of human rights and the alleviation of entrenched impunity in the Asia-Pacific region. Our current work focuses on the countries of Indonesia, Timor-Leste, Myanmar and Sri Lanka, each of which are involved in transition from a context of mass human rights violations to democracy.

## ***OUR VISION***

Governments and civil society in Asia are recognized internationally as leading the way in courageously and honestly confronting past violations and combating impunity, using this process to construct new societies based on universal principles of human rights.

## ***OUR MISSION***

To increase the capacity of local and national actors, particularly victim's organizations, in the fight against entrenched impunity, and to contribute to building cultures based on accountability, justice and a willingness to learn from the root causes of mass human rights violations in Asia.

## ***WE BELIEVE THAT:***

- Accountability is the key element of positive change in the protection of human rights;
- Long term change can only be achieved from the bottom up;
- Increasing the knowledge and capacity of people who have a long-term commitment to the struggle for human rights is necessary for sustainable change
- A deeply nuanced understanding of complex contexts is required along with the use of appropriate new tools, technology and methodologies; and
- Fresh ideas and new strategies emerge when individuals and organizations involved in similar issues come together to share lessons, increase knowledge and form alliances

## ***WHERE WE WORK***

AJAR's head office is in Jakarta, Indonesia, with personnel and programs also based in Myanmar, Timor-Leste and Sri Lanka. AJAR also operates a dedicated human rights training centre with accommodation for 30 participants in Bali, Indonesia. The four contexts we have chosen as focus countries are each at a different stage of their transition from authoritarian regimes to democracy, enabling significant potential for South-South learning. For example the experiences of the 16 year old transition in Indonesia, following the 30 year Suharto dictatorship provides many positive and negative lessons for Myanmar's four year old transition, following 50 years of military dictatorship. In addition our trainings and programs include activities and partners from across the region.



## SELECTED HIGHLIGHTS OF 2014



A trailer from the television drama series in Myanmar's The Sun, The Moon, and The Truth, which were co-produced by AJAR

### **Burma/Myanmar:** *Myanmar Rule of Law TV 'Edutainment' Drama Series*

In a private meeting focused on the rule of law and access to justice in Myanmar in 2013 Daw Aung San Suu Kyi suggested that what was needed was a 'soap opera' involving human rights issues, to increase the knowledge of her people, who have been isolated to new ideas and concepts for decades. The meeting was followed up by a collaboration between the Pyoe Pin project in Myanmar and AJAR, funded by the British, Danish and Swedish governments.

During 2013-14 AJAR's President Patrick Burgess and award winning script writer Phillip Gwynne created a concept and wrote the scripts to eight one-hour television episodes of the series "The Sun, The Moon and The Truth", a legal drama based in a small legal aid office in rural Myanmar. Production of the series has been completed by Pyoe Pin and local partners and screened across Myanmar on government and private television networks.

The series includes love stories, family dramas, a 'rags to riches' football story involving a talented street kid, and an ongoing battle between a highly corrupt 'crony,' and the female star, a legal aid lawyer defending the

rights of members of a village community near the legal aid office. Each episode focuses on a particular case handled by the legal aid office involving the community, including the following issues: fair trial and the rights of persons arrested, pollution of natural resources, domestic violence, workers rights, freedom of speech and criminal defamation, human trafficking, land conflict and rights, and what are the components of a free and fair election.

In addition to reaching viewers across the country episodes of the series are being used to train lawyers, civil society members and communities, with episodes presenting material in an entertaining way that provides a stimulus for group discussions. The first series is being followed up by television talk shows with experts and national celebrities discussing the episodes and issues raised. There are also plans to use episodes such as that dealing with domestic violence and human trafficking in UN supported training of recruits to the Myanmar national police force. Work on drafting the scripts for Series 2 of the Sun, the Moon and the Truth has commenced, with plans to produce the series in 2015.



AJAR and KKKP submit a report of 40 years of violence in Indonesia, “Reclaiming Indonesia”, to the community leaders and representatives of government agencies on October 5, 2014 in Jakarta, Indonesia.

## Indonesia:

### *Publication and Launch of the “Year of Truth” Report “Menemukan Kembali Indonesia” (Reclaiming Indonesia)*

In 2012-2013, AJAR was a leading participant in a national coalition of civil society groups, KKKP (Coalition for Justice and Truth), involving 47 NGOs from Aceh to Papua in a campaign to strengthen the voices of victims of human rights violations through multi-media documentation and advocacy. The eighteen-month project, known as “The Year of Truth” included holding ten public hearings in cities across Indonesia, attended by over 1000 persons. AJAR and members of KKKP collected and recorded the testimonies of victims who spoke about their experiences which stretched over decades during the public hearings.

At the end of “The Year of Truth”, the KKKP produced a joint report, called “Reclaiming Indonesia” covering more than 140 key cases of human rights violations that

took place between 1965-2005. The report documents these testimonies and makes a significant contribution to our understanding of the patterns and root causes of the violations. “Reclaiming Indonesia” was formally presented to the members of the National Human Rights Commission, the Leader of Indonesia’s Upper House (MPR), and President Joko Widodo. This is the first time such a broad reaching report of the experiences of victims has been attempted. It is creating new space for victims to voice their experiences, highlighting the link between impunity and the denial of ongoing issues in Indonesia which are critical not only to the country’s past but to the current practices that are hindering progress on the rule of law and development.



Researchers and survivors from Bobonaro, Timor-Leste conducted a healing workshop. The victims were also invited to discuss the impact of violence and unmet basic needs.

## Timor-Leste:

### *Improving Access for Survivors of violence to state services – the beginnings of reparation*

*I was a victim of violence by the militia in Imbate in 1999. They stabbed my body several times, but I survived. I have asked government assistance six times, but there still hasn't been any response. I must keep working because if I just wait for the government's helping hand, my family's life will get worse.*

**– Mateus Kusi**, survivor from Timor-Leste, from the book *Remembering My Beloved*

In every context in which mass human rights violations have occurred there is a broad consensus that the failure of governments and the international community to protect victims should be the basis for helping victims to repair their lives. However this recognition rarely results in any concrete help for those victims.

When there are limited or no resources to assist survivors of serious violations one way of providing help is to link those survivors to already existing services and helping

them to benefit from available help which they would otherwise not be able access. This is also the most sustainable form of assistance in many contexts, where outside assistance programs are temporary. In Timor-Leste, where it is estimated that up to one third of the population perished as a result of the 24 year long conflict involving the Indonesian security forces the government has now adopted a policy of providing basic health care. However, many many survivors lack understanding about how they can access this health care, and the services which are offered.

AJAR facilitated workshops that brought together between 30 to 50 survivors of serious human rights violations, especially torture survivors, in six districts of Timor-Leste from June to October 2014. Officials from the Ministry of Social Service in each region, local administration and members of parliament participated at each workshop. The events provided an opportunity to explore the experiences and needs of victims, and the manner in which the local government can provide ongoing assistance. AJAR and its partners continue to maintain close contact with the groups of survivors supporting them to access services and assisting them to fulfil bureaucratic and other needs required to access assistance.



Dr Wikramabahu Karunaratne, Patron of the Committee for Investigation of Disappearances (CID) speaking during the people's tribunal held to commemorate UN Day in Support of Victims of Torture held in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

## Sri Lanka

In early 2014, AJAR's Sri Lankan partners, lead by National Peace Council (NPC), participated in a four-country retreat focused on developing methodologies for combating torture and assisting the healing of victims, at the human rights training centre in Bali. The strategic analysis of the participants was one clouded in depression and fear. The space for civil society activities had shrunk and there was a real danger in continuing to provide any form of opposition to government practices. The danger included an increasing use of what was commonly referred to as "white vaning," with activists being disappeared after a visit from the van. What hope then for the planned program working on redress and prevention of torture, when the majority of perpetrators were state agents?

Notwithstanding these challenges, the training continued, and a multi-pronged approach was designed for Sri Lanka, including a national media campaign against torture, support for legal aid work by lawyers representing victims of torture and healing workshops for women in the northern areas. This last point appeared to be particularly problematic as even the provision of counseling services to the survivors in the northern predominantly ethnic Tamil regions had been prohibited by the government, obsessed with their desire to bury any opportunity for revealing the truth of what had happened during the latter stages of the conflict.

One month after the Bali training, AJAR received an email from a Catholic nun who had participated in the training. She explained that she had managed to bring together 30 women victims of torture and rape in a mountainous northern region previously at the centre of the conflict. The nun reported that the women had participated in a training based on AJAR's simple methodology of using stones to represent harsh memories and flowers to bring a focus on the positive aspects of people's lives. This was the first time such an event had been held in Sri Lanka. The women participants at the training returned to their own communities in which there were many other victims and formed smaller groups based on the concept of group story telling and healing and participatory research, resulting in a significant body of information of previously hidden practices.

In one of the most unexpected political events of the decade the hold on government held by President Rajapaksa and his family was broken by a shock electoral defeat in January 2015, the first time an incumbent leader had been defeated at the polls since independence more than 60 years previously. The groups of women partners and their sub groups are now exploring the cautiously increasing space to uncover and share the truth of their experiences, as a base for change.



## Thematic Programs in 2014

1. Justice for gender based violations
2. Accountability to prevent torture
3. Combatting Impunity for religious persecution
4. Establishing community learning centres in post conflict settings
5. Human Rights training and education for activists
6. Promoting the findings and recommendations of Timor-Leste's truth commission report, *Chega!*

## Over the last 12 months AJAR



deepened its relationships with national and local human rights organizations in the region



developed innovative strategies in defending the rights of victims in difficult contexts



provide a space for human rights defenders from Asian countries in transition to meet, share and discuss the challenges they face

## ***GENDER JUSTICE***

### *Strengthening women survivors in post-conflict settings*

In 2013, AJAR commenced a participatory research project focused on understanding how women victims of gender-based violence in conflict and post-conflict settings survive in situations where impunity is the norm. Over the past two years we have gathered and documented the in-depth stories of 140 women survivors of violence from Indonesia, Timor-Leste and Myanmar. Our research brings crucial lessons on how these women developed strategies for survival, and found ways to empower themselves. These lessons form the basis for future advocacy on the prevention of gender based violations in conflict settings and strategies for protection and care of victims.

AJAR has established partnerships with nine organisations within Myanmar, Indonesia and Timor-Leste. At the heart of the project is the involvement of women survivors both as participants and researchers. To achieve this end, we have developed grassroots tools that involve participants to become agents of change. Our objectives are to empower women survivors, to facilitate a collective healing process and to build solidarity and networking across the three countries in which we work. As we progress through the stages of this project which will be completed in 2015, we continue to develop new participatory tools to deepen our understanding about the nature of gender-based and sexual violence and persistent impunity in Indonesia,

Timor-Leste and Myanmar. We are discovering that these tools are particularly important as traditional research methodologies often lead to survivors feeling like 'objects,' utilized in order to gain information for others in a process which is painful and disempowering for them.

The key findings to date from this research are:

- Women were specifically targeted and experienced systematic violence during the conflicts waged in all three the three countries;
- In each context women victims are ostracised by their communities because of discriminatory attitudes towards women victims of sexual violence.
- Women often take action to contribute to restoring peace but remain peripheral in negotiations, with Timor-Leste being an exception;
- Women victims experience an atrophy of justice – out of 140 women interviewed, only 10 were able to seek justice for the serious crimes committed against them through the legal system
- Women victims want recognition of their experience of violence and recognise the need for long-term support to lift them out of poverty
- Women victims are vulnerable to new forms of violence, including domestic and community violence, perpetuating cycles initiated during periods of conflict.

“

***As a victim, I am saddened by the fact that even after all my sufferings everything is still unfair; there is still no justice. I tried to approach the government to ask for help and assistance for my children but it was in vain.***

*- Domingas Moniz, Bobonaro, Timor-Leste*



A book “Surviving on Their Own”, in which portrait photographs of women survivor that participated in AJAR’s participatory research program are combined with text in English, Indonesian, and Tetun was produced and distributed in the three countries. In addition to provide a platform for sharing the powerful experiences of the women and preventing recurrence, the book provides a symbol of recognition and appreciation to the survivors that participated in the project and others who have suffered similar experiences.

During the project a series of public events were held in each of the three target countries. These events served to honour the survivors, raise awareness of their experiences and high light the need to take specific decisive steps to prevent similar violations from occurring and pursue justice. Events were held in Dili, Aceh, Buru Island, Papua, Yogyakarta and in four districts in Timor-Leste as well as Yangon and border conflict areas of Myanmar. Media campaigns and events focusing on the experience of women survivors were also implemented around International Women’s Day in March and International Day in Support of Victims of Torture in June, 2014

### *IN 2015 WE WILL:*

- Continue our research on the socio-economic needs of women victims and their access to support services
- Produce a video documentary on women survivors in Myanmar
- Produce a manual on participatory tools for working with survivors of gender-based and sexual violence in conflict and post-conflict situations.



## **Kipper** *Women in action*

AJAR has assisted groups of survivors to become stronger in each of the target countries, and in each context lessons were apparent. One of the most inventive and creative survivor groups participating in the research is KIPPER (Kiprah Perempuan or Women in Action) a support group established by elderly women victims of the 1965 atrocities in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. Their resilience is demonstrated through the innovative self-help activities they initiated in the face of neglect by the state, which include a savings and loans system, bi-monthly meetings with a door prize for every participant to encourage attendance, and health checks. As part of AJAR’s

participatory action research process, Kipper organised a public discussion at the Islamic National University Sunan Kalijaga, in Jogjakarta, to bring attention to their situation. Women survivors read poetry, sang and performed a skit to articulate their demands for justice and reparation. In November 2014, AJAR presented the research and its in relation to women and armed conflict at the Asia Pacific Civil Society Forum at Beijing+20 and to journalists at the UNESCAP Conference I, in Bangkok.

## *STRIVING FOR ACCOUNTABILITY FOR MASS TORTURE*

Countries in which the widespread and systematic use of torture has been protected by a blanket of secrecy and impunity during periods of conflict are not able to easily escape those norms when there is a transition to peace and democracy. For example, where torture has been officially condoned and accepted as a cultural norm within the security forces during conflict widespread torture by military actors may transfer to the police services following a transition to peace. In fragile transitional settings this often produce new institutionalized norms where individuals arrested and detained are routinely tortured.

The objective of this program is to strive for reform based on the acknowledgement of the wrongs of the past to prevent the recurrence of torture in the present.

This program which commenced in January 2014, uses as its foundation, a transitional justice approach, in order to build a holistic knowledge base of the factors involved in mass torture in the past, linking this to strategies designed to prevent torture and assist victims to heal. This approach includes using the findings and recommendations of already existing bodies of evidence, such as truth commissions and civil society-led documentation.

To strengthen civil society efforts to fight impunity against torture, AJAR and its partners are developing regional, national, and community-based strategies for accountability for mass torture through an EU funded multi-year program in four transitional country contexts - Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Indonesia and Timor-Leste.

The program includes establishing a 'learning circle,' of the primary partners from the four countries. At the commencement of the program these partners met together at the AJAR rights training centre in Bali where they interacted with international legal experts, anti-torture campaigners and representatives of the Trauma Center in South Africa, which has been assisting with the healing of torture victims since before the transition from the apartheid regime. A specific strategy for each country program was then formulated. Some aspects of the strategy were common to all four countries, but as the contexts are different other priorities differed.

For example, in Sri Lanka a priority of providing legal aid to torture victims was identified by AJAR's primary partner, the National Peace Council, as both a remedial and preventative tool. The focus on legal aid is accompanied by a nationwide media campaign against torture and

healing activities for survivors, combined with support for those who wished to form and strengthen associations of survivors. These groups have been supported in their advocacy for prevention and justice.

In Indonesia the work with AJAR has worked with KontraS (Commission for the Disappeared and Victims of Violence) focused on documenting victims' accounts of torture and included nation-wide media advocacy against torture. The strategy for Indonesia specifically identified the need to work with the police, particularly on developing an acceptance that persons detained have the right to access a lawyer. This need emerged from consideration of research indicating that around 85% of individuals arrested in Indonesia are subjected to some form of torture. AJAR also focuses on the strengthening of survivor groups, which are well established in Indonesia, assisting them in their efforts to seek acknowledgement, justice and reparations. This work has resulted in expanding access of representatives of survivors to high level officials, including a meeting with the newly elected President, Joko Widodo.

In the context of Myanmar torture survivors have yet to find a secure manner in which they can raise their voices in the uncertain but expanding space provided by the transition from five decades of military dictatorship. In Myanmar AJAR and its partners work with women survivors, particularly in the border regions that continue to confront violent conflict, where torture is accompanied by rape and other forms of sexual violation. The AJAR program included the first meeting of survivors of torture in more than 50 years, accompanied by media coverage and campaigning. It also included identification of a major emblematic case in which the husband of a woman survivor who had attended an AJAR training was soon after tortured and killed whilst in military custody. This emblematic case has been the subject of a national and international campaign, seeking the truth of what took place, justice and accountability.

In Timor-Leste, because of AJAR's strong partnership with the National Victim's Association (NVA) and AJAR's 'sister organization,' that it helped establish, (Association Chega Ba Ita, known as ACBIT), has produced a foundation from which to conduct high level advocacy. The strategy in Timor has resulted in developing close relationships between survivors groups and the Department of Social Services, including direct inputs from the current Minister Ms Isabel Guterres. As a result services for victims, including medical and other forms of assistance has been agreed to.

## RECONCILIATION AND PEACE-BUILDING WITH WOMEN SURVIVORS

AJAR and its partners held a ground-breaking national gathering of women victims across ethnic groups in September 2014 in Northern Burma/Myanmar. Many of the women, former political prisoners, came from the majority Burman ethnic group while others came from the minority Kachin and Karen ethnicities. For many of the participants, especially the Kachin women, it was the first time to meet a civilian from the Burman ethnic group. The gathering, the first of its kind in Myanmar allowed women to share their stories of struggle and persecution, and built common understanding and solidarity. The women were supported and inspired by each other, through powerful art and theater performances.

### IN 2015 WE WILL:

- Continue to research the needs of survivors of torture
- Develop briefing papers intended for policy makers in each country
- Hold a regional seminar on accountability, prevention of torture and rehabilitation for victims



***“I always thought that it was the Burman who did that to us. But now I understand that it is the Burman generals, not you. They are the ones who are responsible.”***

*- Doi Ra, whose son had been killed by the army in Burma.*



***“I feel like I can recover from my sorrow through this workshop, here I can participate in warmth and happiness with other friends.”***

*- Ah Nan, Kachin woman survivor of sexual violence.*

## ***STRENGTHENING ACCOUNTABILITY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AGAINST RELIGIOUS MINORITIES***

In Indonesia there are six official religions - Islam, Catholicism, Protestantism, Hinduism, Buddhism and Confucianism. Followers of alternate minority religions and indigenous systems of belief do not have the option to state their religions on official identity cards which has implications for their human rights including access to essential services. Over the past ten years, growing conservatism and increasing radicalization have become features of Indonesian society with the result that religious minority groups continue to be marginalized and persecuted. At the same time the debate on impunity for past human rights violations has not included a focus on religion-based rights violations even though religion and religious persecution has played a significant role in a range of situations in which mass violations occurred.

AJAR is currently working in Indonesia with a network of NGOs and leaders from religious groups to strengthen Indonesia's capacity to address recent attacks against minority religious groups. Our approach highlights the long-standing impunity for cases of religious persecution and advocates for remedies for victims.

In November 2014 AJAR together with other leading national NGOs organized a South East Asia regional conference on the issue of freedom of religion and its link to human rights violations in Jakarta. The event was attended by religious leaders, civil society, government officials, police representatives and academics from Indonesia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore and Cambodia. The two-day event consisted of panel discussions with speakers with issues ranging from protection of minorities and religious

harmony to human rights monitoring. The meeting passed a recommendation for the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission for Human Rights (AICHR) to prioritize cases of violence and discrimination against freedom of religion and belief into their agenda.

### ***IN 2015 WE WILL:***

- Continue to engage with policy-makers and government bodies at national and local levels in order to strengthen the implementation of justice and accountability measures for perpetrators of religious-based violence
- Building capacity in victims' groups to comprehensively document human rights violations that occur



Members of minority groups and local religious groups from Myanmar participated in the commemoration day of World Tolerance Day in Jakarta, Indonesia.

## *CHEGA! MAXIMISING THE IMPACT OF TIMOR-LESTE TRUTH COMMISSION REPORT IN INDONESIA (OCT-DEC 2014)*



Strengthening accountability for mass violations is a critical part of building democracy and sustainable peace in Timor-Leste and Indonesia. From 2002 to 2005 the UN mandated East Timor (later Timor-Leste) truth commission (CAVR) took statements from over 8,000 witnesses and victims, held public hearings across the country, recorded 87,000 human rights violations and completed a highly respected Final Report including recommendations for the governments and security forces of both countries. The Commission estimated that between 100,000 and 200,000 East Timorese had perished as a result of the conflict, up to one third of the then population.

*Archbishop Desmond Tutu praised Chega! as "...an extraordinary report about an extraordinary chapter in the history of the world's freedom struggles. It deserves to be more widely known and to take its rightful place in the international canon of human rights and conflict resolution literature."*

The report, titled "Chega! (Never Again)" is an important tool to promote awareness of the manner in which

situations of mass violations arose in Timor-Leste and Indonesia, and the conditions which allow such situations to occur. The role of the Indonesian security forces in the Timor violations also throws a light that helps to explain mass violations including those forces in Aceh, Papua, Maluku and other conflicts in Indonesia, and can assist in avoiding future recurrence.

AJAR provides ongoing support to its sister organization Chega Ba Ita (Chega for us) in Timor-Leste, including education programs based on the Report and promotion of comic book versions to assist learning of the essential lessons. AJAR is also assisting the post-CAVR (Commission for Truth, Reception, and Reconciliation) Secretariat in Dili, Timor-Leste, to disseminate the the English language translation of the CAVR report. The English language version, newly published in 2013, will be distributed to international organizations, universities, think tanks and civil society organizations in many countries. The report is considered to be the most detailed and objective account of how mass violations involving the Indonesian security forces and Timorese militias under their control occurred



Annual Commemoration of the Marabia Incident, 10 June 1980

### *IN 2015 WE WILL:*

Following from one of the recommendations of the Chega! report, AJAR will begin a pilot project to locate and reunite Timorese adults the 'missing children', who were separated from their families during the Indonesian occupation of Timor-



Workshop on victim's access to government social program at Manatuto District, October 2014

that has been written to date. As such it makes a significant contribution to the body of knowledge on related issues and efforts to maintain peace and security in the region.

In Indonesia AJAR's activities included a study on impact of CAVR, meetings with relevant stakeholders, including politicians, journalists, and academics, and public discussions in universities and NGOs in nine cities and more than twenty institutions. AJAR facilitated the translation of Chega! into a graphic book in English and Indonesian to make it accessible for young people and school children, and established a web-based campaign.

AJAR has assisted in distributing 300 Chega! boxed sets and 500 'plain guides' distributed to strategic recipients across Indonesia including research centres, university faculties, libraries and prominent NGOs and the media. In addition the

**During our Chega! event with college students in Aceh, we introduced Timor-Leste's Truth Commission report and its recommendations. Because we wanted to relate the post-conflict context in Aceh and Timor-Leste and bridge differences, we asked students to read our book 'Remembering My Beloved'. The photo book consists of stories and photos of survivors from both Timor-Leste and Aceh. We asked each student to pick one survivor from the book and write them a personal letter. This is one of the letters:**

*"To: Angela Freitas,  
Reading your story, I am very concern yet amaze with your struggle through the difficult times in your life. We want to thank you for the story you share, as motivation and reflection for us on the cruelties of the past government. I wish the story of your struggle to survive violence can become a strength for future generations in their efforts to seek truth. I am a political science student - I promise to learn about the past abuses that had been hidden from the world."  
- Muhammad Syuhada*

## *ESTABLISHING COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTRES IN POST-CONFLICT SETTINGS*

Dealing with past abuses is challenging to Indonesia's democracy. A key element in rebuilding the nation is for the truth to be heard about the experience of survivors of the violence during the New Order dictatorship. However, many victims of atrocities throughout Indonesia and the region remain isolated and fearful to speak about what happened to them or their family members. The impact of the violations experienced by victims includes the loss of property, employment, and other opportunities for economic security. Speaking out about an injustice (past or present) in many Indonesian contexts brings unwelcomed scrutiny and risks of attack by those aligned to perpetrator groups and supporters of historical denial. This ensures a community will remain passive, making the potential for positive change significantly less.

AJAR recognizes that broader societal apathy and amnesia regarding the past have strengthened a culture of impunity. Accountability for past atrocities starts with demanding transparency for everyday struggles at a local level. In order to support local efforts to share the truth, demand accountability and promote and protect human rights AJAR plans to help establish a series of community learning centres in post conflict settings.

In the first part of this two year project, AJAR initiated trainings for NGO workers and survivors of human rights violations during the period from 1965 to 2005. Participants from survivor communities from many regions of Indonesia were taught methodologies of establishing grass root community-learning centres. Participants were introduced to the conceptual framework of social change, human rights and accountability. They were then assisted and encouraged to formulate the purpose, identify needs of their communities and develop plans to create the community learning centres. The survivors were trained to problem analysis and problem solving using a critical education approach and trauma healing methods.

### *IN 2015 WE WILL:*

- Initiate the establishment of local community learning centres, as a way to empower survivors of human rights violations and their communities to become engaged citizens
- AJAR will work with local NGOs to strengthen victims' capacity to monitor and advocate for the fulfillment of their rights, and access the services to which they are entitled.



A group of youths from victim's family took part in participatory action research, held in Buru Island



## *AJAR LEARNING CENTRE (KAMPUNG DAMAI)*

website Chegaport.net was launched in October 2014. AJAR operates a full-time residential learning centre in Bali, Indonesia. Trainings include transitional justice in the context of Asian transitions, strategies for addressing gender-based violations in conflict areas, empowering youth human rights defenders, religious tolerance in transitional contexts, and participatory research methods for working with survivors of human rights violations.

AJAR's goal is to facilitate building knowledge between NGOs in the Asia region through democratic dialogue between organizations that have experienced similar contexts. With a particular focus on South-South sharing of lessons and experiences, AJAR has facilitated exchanges between survivors, civil society and policy makers in the region. When participants return to their own context, they

are supported to implement activities.

Trainings held at Kampung Damai in 2014 included participants from across the Asia region, exchanging lessons learned and being assisted by international and regional human rights experts. The focus on trainings included:

- Transitional justice in the Asia-Pacific region;
- Healing and advocacy for survivors of torture
- Gender based justice
- Effective interventions on social, economic and cultural rights
- Combating religious intolerance
- Youth human rights defenders
- Effectively using film and other media for human rights defenders



Series of training activities undertaken by AJAR, including training on gender in conflict areas, and media and human rights defenders for youth.

## Our Supporters & Partners

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