

Table of Contents

Creating and Strengthening the Transitional Justice Asia Network (TJAN)	08
"Waves of Justice" (Laloran Justisa): AJAR's Human Rights Television Drama	09
Unlearning Impunity: Empowering Survivors to Seek Justice and Accountability	10
Advocacy Against Torture	10
Laying Foundations for a Survivors' Movement in Myanmar	11
Access to Justice and Legal Aid	12
Community Learning Centres: A Base of Accountability and Rights	13
Tracing Timor-Leste's Stolen Children: Pushing for a Policy Response in Indonesia and Timor-Leste	13
Engagement with the UN and Other International Rights Mechanisms	15
South-South Lessons: Linking Truth Commissions in Aceh and Timor-Leste	15
Timor-Leste's Permanent Post-TRC Institution: A Model for Other Countries	17
Women Survivors as Change-makers in Timor-Leste	17
Teaching Transitional Justice and Human Rights	18
Promoting Religious Tolerance and Preventing Violent Extremism	19
Creating Learning Spaces for Indigenous Women in Papua, Indonesia	19
AJAR's Support for Free and Fair Elections in Timor-Leste	20
Theatre for Healing and Community Reconciliation	
Growing as an Institution: AJAR's Learning Unit	22



Annual Report 2017

Front Cover:

Two Papuan women survivors cultivate community gardens that they manage with other women, as part of AJAR's community learning centre in Wamena, Papua.

Back Cover:

A Papuan woman survivor participates in an action research exercise facilitated by AJAR and partners.



Design by Zulfikar Arief

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A group of women from Ainaro district, Timor-Leste, participate in an action research exercise facilitated by AJAR's sister organization, ACbit. (Photo credit: ACbit)

What is Asia Justice and Rights (AJAR)?

AJAR is a non-profit human rights organization whose core mandate is to prevent and seek just solutions for mass human rights violations in the Asia region. AJAR's headquarters is in Jakarta, Indonesia, with programs in Myanmar and Timor-Leste and a full-time residential training facility in Bali. AJAR's program also includes a focus on mass violations in ten countries of the region.

How Do We Achieve Our Goals?

AJAR achieves its goals through empowering key individuals and groups who will be involved in the long-term struggle for truth, accountability, and justice in their national contexts. We do this through:

- trainings, exchanges, and strengthening networks to increase the knowledge and capacity of survivors, human rights defenders, and government officials;
- undertaking research to establish and share the truth concerning mass human rights violations. As part
 of this work AJAR has developed unique participatory methods where victims are not the 'objects' of
 researchers, but take an active part in processes that include self-healing and empowerment;
- utilizing the results of our research in advocacy to national, regional, and international organizations such as the United Nations;
- increasing popular, broad-based understanding of human rights, justice, tolerance, gender balance, etc. through use of mass media. This has included creating popular television series with human rights themes in Myanmar and Timor-Leste, producing documentaries, recording rights-related music, and social media campaigns.
- contributing to the empowerment of women survivors and human rights defenders so that their voices have an increased impact on policy and practice.

2017 Highlights

- 169 trainings and workshops were conducted with approximately 10,000 human rights defenders and victims as participants.
- The 20-episode 'edutainment' television drama series, "Waves of Justice", created and broadcast in Timor-Leste. The series mixed love stories, family tensions, football, and drama with rights issues including domestic violence, freedom of speech, the criminal justice system, fair elections nepotism, corruption, etc. The series was accompanied by a national music competition, social media programs, and a training manual addressing the issues raised in specific episodes later used by the police, public defenders, government, and civil society. The music competition resulted in the compilation and distribution of songs relating to human rights issues.
- AJAR facilitated the building of a movement of women survivors of serious human rights violations in the ethnic conflict regions of Myanmar.
- The Transitional Justice Asia Network (TJAN) was formed and successful activities were conducted with experts from civil society organizations in seven countries who participated in two week-long trainings and activities in their national contexts.
- Report and video, "I am Here: Voices of Papuan Women in the Face of Unrelenting Violence", was launched at the Office of the Governor of Papua.
- AJAR provided significant technical support to the new Aceh Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) by training Commissioners and staff, and key inputs into the TRC's strategic plan, procedures, and policies.
- Two more groups of "Stolen Children" found in Indonesia were reunited with their families in Timor-Leste, for some, more than 35 years after being taken to Indonesia as children during the armed conflict.

AJAR's Year in Numbers

Total activities

Activities and events completed:



Individuals who participated in AJAR activities:



Total number of days for all activities:



Geographical breakdown of activities

Asia Regional

45 1,862 Indonesia



Activities



Participants



Community Learning Centres





Countries

Burma/Myanmar

1.371

Timor-Leste

4.055



Print publications:



Television episodes: 20



- Twenty half-hour episodes of "Waves of Justice" (Laloran Justisa) were finalized and broadcast in Timor-Leste;
- Eight one-hour episodes of "The Sun, the Moon and the Truth" (created and written by AJAR in 2015) were re-broadcast in Myanmar (a total of 7 million viewers to date)

Videos:



- "Sa Ada di Sini" ("I am Here"; about women in Papua)
- Seven short videos on women survivors and empowerment with ACbit, AJAR's sister organization (Timor-Leste)

Music CD:



"Waves of Justice" (collection of human rights songs; Timor-Leste)

YouTube views of AJAR films

(cumulative count from posting on YouTube through the end of 2017)



- "Nina & the Stolen Children of Timor-Leste" (English only): 20,064
- "Feto iha Otel Flamboyan" ("Women of Hotel Flamboyan"; Indonesian subtitles): 20,402

Letter from the President

2017 brought increased challenges to human rights defenders in the Asian countries that are the focus of AJAR's work. In the Philippines President Duterte has maintained his support for the mass execution of over 12,000 citizens without trial. In Myanmar the military, confidently protected by a blanket of impunity, continued and intensified the same patterns of atrocity they have been committing for the past 50 years. The neighboring Thai military junta continued its unelected rule, increasing the use of terror to suppress the voice of dissent ahead of planned 2018 elections. Across the border the Cambodian government prepared for its own elections by imprisoning the leader of the major opposition party and closing down news outlets critical of the government. In Indonesia violent fundamentalist Islamic groups found collaborators in political leaders ready to sacrifice the world's leading example of a pluralist, tolerant form of Islam for their own political gains.

The challenges of 2017 have strengthened AJAR's belief that the strategies we have adopted to address and prevent mass human rights violations are well founded. The violations in each of the scenarios referred to above rely on continuing impunity and a lack of accountability, particularly for the actions of the elites and security forces. AJAR's program focus of "unlearning impunity" recognizes impunity as the core challenge that must be addressed. After decades of impunity, corruption, nepotism, and mass violations the 'unlearning' process cannot be expected to happen in a year or two. It requires building social movements in each context that has experienced the violations. These movements need to include civil society organizations, survivors, business leaders, and government changemakers working together for the decades to come.

AJAR is proud to contribute in a meaningful way to the building of these movements. This year almost 10,000 individuals attended 169 AJAR events, each carefully designed to build the knowledge and ability of the participants to effectively contribute to change. This report includes the details of where and how our work took place.

Across the globe we are realizing that sustainable change cannot be achieved by preaching to the converted. We must strive to increase the knowledge and understanding of the whole population around issues of tolerance, inclusion, gender justice and rights. This year AJAR also produced a broad range of tools and products designed to achieve this purpose, including television series, films, comic books, social media campaigns, a music CD, and YouTube videos. It also produced a range of training manuals and policy papers that were presented to the United Nations and governments. We will continue to adapt our approaches to the rapidly changing contexts in which we operate.

The contents of this report demonstrate that in 2017 AJAR continued to grow in its institutional maturity, partnerships, and effectiveness of approach. I would like to thank our donors and partners for their continuing support. I would also like to thank the thousands of survivors with whom we had the privilege of working this year. Your courage is a continual inspiration to us all.

Patrick Burgess



Transitional justice experts from various Asian countries present their insights at a TJAN workshop in Banda Aceh, Indonesia, October 2017.

Creating and Strengthening the Transitional Justice Asia Network (TJAN)

Transitional justice (TJ) refers to the range of responses a society may take to address its experience of mass human rights violations including strategies of prosecution, establishing the truth, helping to repair the lives of victims, and reforming institutions necessary to prevent recurrence.

In order to guide TJ responses in the many contexts of mass violations in the region it is necessary to build a larger and stronger group of Asian TJ experts. In February 2017 AJAR hosted the founding meeting of the Transitional Justice Asia Network (TJAN). Participants who joined the network included former commissioners and senior staff of Asian truth and reconciliation commissions, survivors, human rights defenders, and academics. Currently TJAN's core group consists of selected civil society organizations and TJ experts in seven countries: Indonesia, Timor-Leste, Thailand, the Philippines, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, and South Korea. Although TJAN is cautious about expanding too quickly it is expected that in 2018 representatives from Bangladesh and Cambodia will also join. AJAR has agreed to continue to serve as the network's secretariat.

The TJAN program in 2017 included bringing together experts from seven Asian countries for two one-week trainings to deepen their understanding of TJ, share lessons, and develop national and regional strategies. In addition network members wrote case study papers summarizing TJ initiatives in the Philippines, Indonesia, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Timor-Leste. Six short video films on different aspects of transitional justice in Asia were recorded and will be released in 2018 to be used in training and advocacy.

Each time the TJAN participants come together in an AJAR "learning circle" they receive inputs from some of the world's leading TJ practitioners and develop activity plans to implement in their national contexts. The experts then return to their countries, implement the activities, and bring the resulting information and results to the next meeting of the "learning circle". In this way the smaller circles of knowledge in each country also expand. The first training was held at AJAR's residential human rights centre in Bali. The second six-day event was held in Aceh, Indonesia in close coordination with the new Aceh Truth and Reconciliation Commission. To date the TJAN activities have focused on women and children in conflict, and the role of corruption, extremism, and natural resources in conflict resolution and rebuilding.

...as women's organisations and civil society groups, there is an important role we need to play to develop a public discourse about why TJ is needed for our own countries. If we can build a strong voice within Asia, it will be a big strength for us.

~ Sumika Perera, member of the Sri Lanka TJAN delegation



The filming of "Waves of Justice" in Dili, Timor-Leste. (Photo credit: Urban Artistry)

"Waves of Justice" (Laloran Justisa): AJAR's Human Rights Television Drama

In 2017 AJAR, in partnership with the Timor-Leste Provedor for Justice and Human Rights and funded by the European Union, created a 20-episode popular television drama "edutainment" series focused on human rights and democracy issues. The series "Waves of Justice" (*Laloran Justisa*) was based on a similar program that AJAR created for Myanmar ("The Sun, the Moon and the Truth" that has been viewed by over 7 million with the second series to be produced in 2018). The "Waves of Justice" series was broadcast twice in Timor in 2017, once on the national government television station and then repeated on another network. Episodes are also available on YouTube in Tetun with English and Portuguese subtitles.

"Waves of Justice" combines drama, love stories, football, and family dramas with human rights and democracy issues such as freedom of speech, rights during arrest and criminal trial, environmental pollution, corruption, nepotism, domestic violence, rape, and unfair elections. This series includes a strong female lead character, uses both positive and negative role models for police, government officials, judges, etc. and identifies key issues and lessons in each episode.

In order to maximize the impact of the series, a range of complementary activities and products were developed. These included trainings for Timorese film-makers on how to write and produce effective human rights films; a nationwide competition for original songs dealing with rights and democracy issues; mobile screenings and discussion groups in each of Timor-Leste's 13 districts; television and radio talk shows; school writing and poster competitions in all districts; distribution of USB copies of the series to remote areas; and production of a glossy book that combines photos of the stars with short, simple language summaries of the major human rights issues covered in the series.



Finalists of the "Waves of Justice" series' school writing and poster competitions

In 2017 AJAR and its partners continued to adapt and develop a unique methodology for working with victims, survivors' communities, and human rights defenders based on a long-term strategy of unlearning impunity. This approach includes multi-year relationships with survivors through a series of activities that include training and participatory research, the formation and support of victims' organizations that includes assisting them to link with other counterparts, and capacity-building and exchange programs for potential leaders to prepare them to take important roles both in national initiatives for justice and in AJAR's regional and international networks.

Stone and Flower

A key methodology developed by AJAR is "Stone and Flower". With the use of a step-by-step manual, trained facilitators conduct a process of several days in which survivors share their experiences with others who have suffered similar challenges, participate in group healing activities, record their stories in a participatory research framework, and learn about and develop strategies for change. Stones and flowers are objects found in every village that can be used in the process to symbolise the hard elements of survivors' experiences and the positive hopeful elements that help them to create some balance in their lives.

In 2017, 1,070 survivors took part in 41 workshops that incorporated the stone and flower methodology. The manual has been translated into Indonesian, Tetun and Burmese, and is being used in ethnic conflict areas of Kachin, Shan and Karen states in Burma; Papua and Aceh in Indonesia; in Timor-Leste; and with women victims in the north and eastern post conflict areas of Sri Lanka.

With these activities, we traditional women can believe in ourselves and have a voice. We women can know that our place is not just at the back... Our place is no longer in the kitchen, but we can speak with the men again.

~ Workshop Participant, Keerom, Papua

Advocacy Against Torture

Only a broad-based movement that strongly rejects the use of torture in any circumstance can counter the norms of torture and impunity that exist in post-conflict settings in Asia.

A second manual in AJAR's Unlearning Impunity series, Mosaic, sets out clear methods for participatory work with victims/survivors of torture and their communities, including guidance on developing effective strategies for advocacy campaigns, seeking justice and legal aid and psychosocial healing for victims. AJAR's 2017 work on torture included training and empowerment workshops with survivors; campaigns in Myanmar, Indonesia, and Timor-Leste focused on the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, policy papers provided to the UN Human Rights Commission, and participatory research that included documenting the stories of torture survivors in several Asian countries.





Myanmar women survivors participate in a series of workshops using the stone and flower methodology.

Laying Foundations for a Survivors' Movement in Myanmar

The events of 2017 clearly demonstrated the need for civil society to lead long-term advocacy on accountability in Myanmar. Conflicts in many ethnic areas of the country escalated despite the signing of a Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement. Government army attacks led to the displacement of over 600,000 Rohingya, unleashed a backlash against human rights organizations, and threatened the stability of the country. Activists and journalists continued to be charged and imprisoned for speaking out against violations.

Despite increasing violations, AJAR and its partner organizations took further steps to lay the foundations for building a survivors' movement in Myanmar. AJAR continued to use participatory action research to document women's stories in conflict areas and created a short video on women survivors speaking out for peace. In response to a key finding of the research relating to victims' needs for rehabilitation, AJAR piloted livelihood activities that included sewing and soap-making trainings, and provided grants for small survivor-run businesses.

In May 2017, eight Myanmar women survivors and activists, along with AJAR's staff, visited Timor-Leste to learn how civil society have built a national survivors' network. The participants were inspired to develop memory projects in their own context after visiting the country's many museums and commemorative sites. The visit also highlighted the importance of ongoing psychosocial support to improve and maintain the wellbeing of victims affected by trauma.

AJAR and its partners also identified and strengthened the capacity of leaders in the survivor community to speak out, conduct advocacy, and contribute to debate and policy formation, particularly concerning justice, accountability, and impunity. An increasing number of women survivors bravely shared stories of the violations they experienced, and called for peace and an end to impunity in public symposiums, commemorative events, and candlelight vigils. With AJAR's support some of these women formed a network for collaborating on future advocacy and capacity-building activities.

Challenges faced by survivors in Myanmar remain daunting, but AJAR and its partners continue efforts to build a foundation of advocacy, research, livelihood, and psychosocial support skills in order to create a strong and unified movement. Sustainable economic growth and peace are dependent on accountability and an end to impunity, and it will take decades to achieve this. As in other countries, survivors have the unique moral authority and commitment to make an irreplaceable contribution to these efforts.



12

Access to Justice and Legal Aid

The countries that are the focus of AJAR's work share similar challenges due to decades of systematic weakening and manipulation of the rule of law by authoritarian regimes. These include common practices of torture by security forces during conflict that are then "handed over" to the police who continue using torture during peacetime, direct political control of the judiciary and prosecutors, environmental destruction and theft of community resources, land grabbing from poor farmers, illegal labor practices, and targeting of journalists and activists who investigate and publish the truth.

To prevent these violations empowering local communities is needed as well as linking them to free legal advice and assistance. However, in Asia there are few resources available for legal aid lawyers and paralegals, and national legal aid systems are weak and underfunded.

As one of the founders of the South East Asia Legal Aid Network (SEALAW), AJAR continues to work closely with the network members to strengthen legal aid systems and share legal empowerment lessons learned across the region.

During the past year AJAR contributed to strengthening legal aid systems in Vietnam, Cambodia, Myanmar and Indonesia. AJAR provided technical assistance to the drafting of an amendment of the legal aid law in Vietnam, and to the drafting and early stages of implementation of the legal aid law in Myanmar; represented SEALAW in advising on development of a legal aid policy in Cambodia; and, in close collaboration with Indonesian legal aid providers, hosted a study tour for representatives of the National Legal Aid Agency of Vietnam to Jakarta.

Community Learning Centres: A Base of Accountability and Rights

In 2017 AJAR completed a two-year pilot project in which 12 Community Learning Centres were established in post-conflict contexts in Indonesia to prevent recurrence of human rights violations and promote reconciliation. The centres enable community members to access resources relating to human rights, and to develop strategies and conduct small-scale projects to increase understanding and accountability. AJAR supports these centres and links them to other national and international learning opportunities.

The learning centres have conducted a range of activities with as many as 530 participants according to the varying needs of the communities. In 2017 these activities included:

- a "school of pluralism" where children learn about tolerance and inclusion in a community where
 religious violence ten years ago divided the community and today young people are susceptible to
 recruitment to extremist groups;
- discussion groups and tours to sites of remembrance;
- a community-based library with publications on human rights and agriculture;
- information tours for schools to sites of previous conflict and violations; and
- meetings with local government officials on issues relating to accountabilty and human rights.

The Community Learning Centres provide a new model at the local level that could be replicated in many post-conflict settings.

Tracing Timor-Leste's Stolen Children: Pushing for a Policy Response in Indonesia and Timor-Leste

The practice of taking children from their families during war is an abhorrent human rights violation committed in conflicts in many parts of the world, but one that is often ignored. AJAR is contributing to a growing international movement to shine a light on this practice.

According to Timor-Leste's truth commission, several thousand Timorese children were forcibly removed to Indonesia during the 24-year conflict (1975-1999) that led to independence. Many families believe that their children died and some have been placing flowers on the graves of their sons or daughters for 35 years. While AJAR and civil society groups in Indonesia search for these "stolen children", another team traces their families in Timor-Leste so that the children can be reunited with their families.

In 2017, AJAR continued to implement the stolen children program in co-operation with the governments and human rights institutions of Indonesia and Timor-Leste, thus providing them a practical opportunity to work together to address a challenging human rights violation committed in the past.

Fifteen to twenty stolen children participate in each group reunification visit. Since 2014 more than 100 stolen children have been located and 60 reunited with their families. As knowledge of the program grows, families and individuals have begun contacting AJAR to request assistance. Funding for further family reunions is urgently required and AJAR is also working with both governments on solutions to overcome the passport, visa, and support needs for this special class of victims.

In 2017, AJAR's stolen children program gained significant international attention with coverage by both BBC and *The Guardian*. AJAR's own documentary of this program is the 27-minute film, "Nina & the Stolen Children of Timor-Leste" that has been viewed on YouTube over 20,000 times. The BBC documentary "East Timor's Lost Boys" was a 2017 Asian Television Awards nominee for "best digital fiction & non-fiction programme/series."





"I feel reborn today," said Antonio on the flight to Dili, anticipating his reunion with his family. He carefully took out a tattered black and white photograph of his sister from his wallet. "I have carried this picture with me for 35 years. It is my source of strength." Two days later, after a long ride up and down the winding rain-drenched mountain roads to Same, Antonio arrived in front of his house. He asked for some time to catch his breath, as he felt car sick from the ride. Fifteen minutes later he was still in the car, paralyzed by his emotions. Feeling panicked, he asked Inocencio Xavier, AJAR's program officer, "What should I do?" Inocencio said, "Touch the ground with your forehead, then walk in and embrace your sister." Antonio closed his eyes for one second, drew a deep breath, and took those last few steps on his long journey home. He paused to briefly bend down to kiss the ground, his sister was waiting at the door.

Engagement with the UN and Other International Rights Mechanisms

In March 2017, AJAR and one of its close partners in Indonesia, KontraS, submitted a joint submission relating to Indonesia to the UN Human Rights Council Universal Periodic Review. The submission included specific examples of the Indonesian government's failure to ensure truth, justice and reparations for victims of human rights violations and their families. Many of these points were included in the 225 recommendations the Human Rights Council made to the Government of Indonesia. Indonesia accepted 167 of those recommendations.

As a member of Timor-Leste's NGO Coalition on the Convention against Torture, AJAR led the process to submit a "shadow report" to the 62nd session of the United Nations Human Rights Committee Against Torture in Geneva in November 2017. In a dialogue with the Committee Against Torture, the Director of AJAR Timor-Leste, Mr. Jose Luis de Oliveira, requested that the Committee urge the government of Timor-Leste to rehabilitate survivors of torture from the past conflict, and refrain from excessive use of force during security operations.

South-South Lessons: Linking Truth Commissions in Aceh and Timor-Leste

The Helsinki Peace accord in 2004 included a promise to establish a TRC and a human rights court in Aceh, Indonesia to deal with the mass human rights violations that cost over 20,000 lives between 1976 and 2004. Ten years of dedicated advocacy by civil society organizations including AJAR contributed to the establishment of the Aceh Truth and Reconciliation Commission in 2017. This is the first TRC in the world to be established as a permanent institution.



The Aceh Truth and Reconciliation Commission's office in Banda Aceh, Indonesia

Together with Acehnese civil society, AJAR has continued to assist the TRC through its establishment phase, providing a week-long training for Commissioners and substantial technical assistance that included development of the TRC's strategic plan, key policies and procedures. AJAR also facilitated an exchange visit by the Aceh TRC Commissioners to study the lessons from the Timor-Leste TRC. Correlating the findings of both commissions will provide invaluable information on patterns of violations and how to prevent recurrence, as Indonesian security forces and guerilla groups were involved in thousands of violations in both contexts.



On 24 March 2017 more than 1,000 people gathered in the ruins of an infamous torture center known as *Rumah Geudong* in Pidie, Aceh, Indonesia to remember and pray together. Afridal Darmi, Chair of the newly established Aceh Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), delivered a moving address. "Remember! In the Quran, the word *truth* is mentioned 150 times. We who are here somehow passed through holes in the net of horror to survive. But our bodies and minds still hold the wounds of conflict."

Timor-Leste's Permanent Post-TRC Institution: A Model for Other Countries

Of the more than 40 countries that have established a truth commission, all have struggled to implement recommendations made by the commissions at the end of their mandate. Many of those bodies made excellent recommendations based on a deep investigation and analysis of the facts relating to the mass violations. However, without an institutional "home", no one was in charge of implementing recommendations relating to prevention of recurrence and other issues.

For 12 years, civil society groups in Timor-Leste, including AJAR, advocated for a new institution to implement the recommendations in *Chega!* (Enough!), the Final Report of the Commission for Reception, Truth and Reconciliation (CAVR). Finally, in 2017 the National Centre for Chega (CNC) was officially established. The CNC's mandate is to preserve the memory of the past, ensure the implementation of the CAVR recommendations, and offer solidarity to the most vulnerable victims. AJAR's Director, Galuh Wandita, sits on CNC's International Advisory Board. Hugo Fernandez, formerly the coordinator of truth-seeking at CAVR and now Director of the CNC, visited the Aceh TRC for an AJAR workshop in November 2017. Also in 2017 AJAR hosted six of the CNC staff at one of the intensive transitional justice trainings at its Bali Training Centre.

Women Survivors as Changemakers in Timor-Leste

During the past year, AJAR's sister organization in Timor-Leste, *Asosiasaun Chega! ba ita* (ACbit) continued its work to establish survivors' groups throughout the country and support them with economic, health, and social assistance; conducted trainings in leadership, gender justice, and advocacy; and facilitated opportunities to communicate directly with relevant government authorities and policymakers. ACbit's database of the histories of women survivors of violence now holds almost 500 profiles and personal information that are used for legal and policy changes, and to push for more equitable social assistance programs for victims. One of the many campaigns conducted by ACbit with the support of AJAR in 2017 was "Fighting for Change, We Do It Too" with a range of activities designed to change perceptions about women's significant contributions to social and political change.

This year, with support from the UN Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women, AJAR and ACbit worked to link women survivors of past serious rights violations with victims of domestic violence in the present context as well as with children of war, specifically those born out of rape committed during the conflict.



Workshop participants visit the Resistance Archive in Dili, Timor-Leste. (Photo credit: ACbit)

Timorese Children of War

For the first time in Timor-Leste, ACbit turned its attention towards working with children born as a result of the thousands of rapes committed during the Indonesian military occupation. In 2017, 22 of these survivors participated in workshops where they shared their experiences of trauma and discrimination. This information provided the basis for a policy paper on the importance of citizenship documents (many have problems attaining them due to the missing identity of a father), assistance in accessing educational and training opportunities, as well as support to combat discrimination towards their mothers that extends to them. As a result of their involvement in ACbit's activities, some of the children now volunteer for the organization, building their knowledge and skills as part of the next generation of changemakers.



Mapping transitional justice issues at a Transitional Justice Asia Network workshop in Bali, Indonesia.

Teaching Transitional Justice and Human Rights

AJAR partners in Asian contexts struggling to transition to peace and democracy are often confused about the meaning of transitional justice (TJ) and whether it can assist them. Much TJ information and education is focused on historical developments that took place far away, complex international legal issues, well-resourced and highly objective courts and commissions, and well-funded government programs for victims.

The challenge in building capacity and engagement on TJ issues in Asia is to use important lessons from international and regional experience to develop strategies that are achievable in contexts where perpetrators remain powerful and dangerous, truth has been manipulated for decades, and there is neither recognition nor resources available for victims. AJAR believes that a transitional justice framework and knowledge of positive and negative lessons from other countries are highly useful, as long as they are approached in a practical way using participatory methods.

In 2017, AJAR and partners conducted six intensive human rights and transitional justice trainings ranging from two to eight days in which 132 participants from five countries increased their knowledge and capacity to utilize TJ strategies. The training groups included victims' organizations, youth groups, women survivors, legal academics, human rights defenders, members of government agencies, and National Human Rights Institutions. Besides these intensive trainings, AJAR also provided expertise on transitional justice for 50 other activities with a total of 1840 participants.

In line with AJAR's strategy to strengthen the focus on human rights in Indonesian universities, one of these trainings was a course for 20 Indonesian legal academics, conducted in partnership with the Indonesian Consortium of Human Rights Lecturers and Jember State University in Java. Another of these trainings focused on transitional justice strategies in Asia with participants from Indonesia, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Timor-Leste. Asian examples presented and discussed included tribunals in Cambodia, Timor-Leste, and Bangladesh, Indonesian Human Rights Courts, and truth commissions in Timor-Leste, Thailand, Nepal, South Korea, and Aceh. The course also provided sessions on cross-cutting TJ themes such as corruption, natural resources and the role of religious extremism in Southeast Asian conflicts.

Promoting Religious Tolerance and Preventing Violent Extremism

In 2017 AJAR continued to engage with the issue of rising religious intolerance in political transitions. AJAR's in-depth work in four Southeast Asian contexts that involve ethno-religious violence has brought into focus a new challenge. A lack of justice and care for victim communities after decades of mass human rights violations leads to deep frustration and anger that creates an increased vulnerability, particularly among youth, to recruitment by international extremist groups.

AJAR continues to work on these issues in the following contexts where a lack of accountability and marginalization of minorities is the norm:

- the ethnic Moro Maranao Islamic minorities in Mindanao, in majority Catholic Philippines;
- the ethnic Pathani-Islamic minority in majority Buddhist Thailand;
- · the Rohingya-Islamic minority in majority Buddhist Myanmar; and
- the minority radical extremist Islamic groups in Indonesia's violent confrontations with more moderate Islamic groups and other religions.

Creating Learning Spaces for Indigenous Women in Papua, Indonesia



A Papuan woman in Wamena weaves a noken (a traditional bag).

In response to the long pattern of impunity for violence against women in Papua, AJAR has continued its work supporting and strengthening the Papuan Women's Working Group (PWG). Formed in 2014, PWG consists of Papuan women activists, religious leaders, and human rights defenders working in four Papuan districts. AJAR's support includes training facilitators to implement the "stone and flower" methodology for healing and participatory research.

One key impact of this engagement has been to help marginalized women, including victims of violence, to better access services from government agencies. For example, in Wamena 28 women survivors successfully registered for ID cards (previous attempts having failed) that are a prerequisite to accessing services and enrolling children in school. Through the work of local facilitators, medics have provided free check-ups for these women. Women in Marauke have begun a regular discussion group for survivors' children and have created a local library.



In October 2017, AJAR and the Papuan Women's Working Group (PWG) share the findings of their report and film, "I am Here: Voices of Papuan Women in the Face of Unrelenting Violence" through a two-day cultural event in Jakarta, Indonesia.

In June 2017 during an event co-organized with the National Women's Commission, AJAR launched a report, "I am Here: Voices of Papuan Women in the Face of Unrelenting Violence", at the Papuan Governor's Office. This report consolidates three years of participatory action research involving a total of 170 Papuan women. The report finds that Papuan women continue to experience domestic, community, and state violence. They face difficulty in accessing legal aid or support services. Single mothers and widows are particularly vulnerable in times of conflict. Factors that contribute to this unrelenting violence include: unresolved trauma from violence, unrecognized rights to land and forests under customary law, and insurmountable barriers to gaining access to government services such as health care. In November 2017, AJAR conducted two national events to disseminate this report in Jakarta among students, academics, and officials from the Office of the President and the Ministry of Women's Empowerment.

AJAR's Support for Free and Fair Elections in Timor-Leste

In Timor-Leste's 2012 general elections, three of the six members of the National Victims' Association that AJAR promoted as candidates were elected as Members of Parliament.



AJAR Timor-Leste's Director, Jose luis de Oliveira, conducts an election training.

In 2017, AJAR worked with 20 partners to review a draft bill on the parliamentary election and presented a resulting policy paper to the President. AJAR facilitated workshops prior to the elections to increase the capacity of participants to educate their communities to evaluate the performance of their political representatives and wisely exercise their right to vote.

Using the media, including national television, radio talkshows, and social media, AJAR raised awareness on the need for strong presidential and parliamentary leadership who have a clear commitment to human rights. These forums were used to encourage voters to pressure political party leadership to remove

candidates whose past actions and platforms were inconsistent with human rights principles. Working with local partners AJAR produced two short videos that encouraged support for women candidates and urged citizens to vote conscientously.

AJAR believes that this work, carried out with a range of civil society partners, contributed to a fairer and more transparent election process and that in future elections human rights and transparency will play a more prominent role.

Theatre for Healing and Community Reconciliation

In 2017 AJAR began to introduce theatre performances and cultural dialogues to strengthen the capacity of community victims' groups, address survivors' trauma, and build resilience.

In Indonesia, hardline Islamic groups have taken an increasingly hostile and violent approach to intimidate human rights defenders and victims' groups who believe it is important to know the truth around the purges of 1965 in which at least 500,000 people were killed. Islamic groups and military forces were implicated as perpetrators of those mass crimes.

With AJAR's support, and in cooperation with local artists, a group of elderly women survivors of the 1965 violations in Yogyakarta performed a play that reflected their struggles in the past and present. The theatre event proved to be a cathartic experience for the survivors who were able to reveal their identity as 1965 victims before a public audience of over 200.

At the beginning of the performance, we [the audience and performers] sang together. But as the elderly women climbed onto the stage, singing with enthusiasm, I fell silent and stopped singing. I shed tears to see the enormity of their passion considering their age.

~ Member of the Audience



Women survivors perform "Pirilampu" at a former prison in Dili, Timor-Leste, that now serves as the office of the National Centre for Chega.

In West Timor, Indonesia AJAR assisted members of a victims' group, including their children and grandchildren, to perform a story to show how the anti-communist violence of 1965 tore apart the fabric of their community. Some members of this ethnic community were perpetrators of the 1965 violence and others victims, yet they still live together in the same community without tools for processing the pain and trauma that continue to affect victims. This performance helped to break the taboo on public discussion of the 1965 events and opened up an opportunity for the community to discuss and increase understanding of what took place.

In December, Timor-Leste's National Day of Heroes, women survivors performed "Pirilampu" ("Firefly") at a former prison that now serves as the office of the National Centre for Chega. The title of this theatre performance is a metaphor for the women who, like fireflies, shine and give light even in the deepest darkness. Through this theatre performance and the launching of a comic book bearing the same title, AJAR and its sister organization, ACbit, promoted the recognition of women's role as heroes during the past conflict and struggle for independence, and also today.

Growing as an Institution: AJAR's Learning Unit

Learning is at the heart of AJAR's mandate and its Learning Unit is responsible not only for the design and monitoring of AJAR's national and regional learning programs, but also ensures that AJAR's own organizational growth is informed by lessons that staff and volunteers learn in the field and in interaction with AJAR's many partners.

In 2017 AJAR's Learning Unit and Communications team facilitated the production of manuals, simple-language materials, social media tools, and videos for use by partners with the goal of empowering survivors of violations and human rights defenders who are working on justice and accountability issues. The Learning Unit also supervised an evaluation of the "stone and flower" methodology for empowering victims' groups.



Workshop participants engage in a discussion at a human rights and transitional justice training in Bali, Indonesia.

AJAR's Learning Unit engaged the assistance of a specialist to develop a new system for accurate and timely grant monitoring. This allows AJAR to monitor each step of its many programs that are conducted with support from various donors. This new system is integrated with AJARs monitoring and evaluation platform, with a focus on impact. The platform provides tools for more comprehensive results-based monitoring and evaluation that facilitates learning from successes and challenges encountered during program implementation. As a continuous management function, the platform helps AJAR to assess progress made in achieving expected results, spot bottlenecks in implementation, and highlight unintended effects (positive or negative) from program planning and implementation.

Governance

AJAR's Governing Board is responsible for guiding the policy work of AJAR and for the governance of the organization. This includes providing a focused and informed voice on matters of policy in Indonesia and internationally, providing leadership and strategic direction in relation to policy and operations; oversight and monitoring of the policies and operations of AJAR; and making decisions on governance and finance matters in the best interests of AJAR.

AJAR's Governing Board

Chairperson

Ifdhal Kasim, lawyer and former chair of Indonesia's national human rights commission (2008-2011)

Members

- Putu Oka Sukanta, writer and accupunturist, Jakarta
- Zandra Mambrasar, human rights worker, Papua
- Tati Krisnawaty, women's rights advocate, West Java
- Fr. Leo Kleden SVD, educator, Flores
- I Gede Artika, businessman, Bali
- Isna Marifa, environmentalist, Jakarta
- Prihatin Asmidy, business manager, Jakarta
- Rev. Dr. John Campbell-Nelson, educator, Kupang

AJAR's International Board of Advisors

- · Ian Martin, UN expert and former secretary general of Amnesty International, New York
- Priscilla Hayner, expert on truth and reconciliation commissions and peace processes, New York
- Somchai Homlaor, jurist, member of the Law Reform Commission of Thailand, and former member of Truth and Reconciliation Commission, Bangkok
- U Kyaw Mint, lawyer and founder of the Myanmar Legal Aid Network, Executive Director of the Yangon Justice Centre, Yangon
- Dr. Jacqueline Hayden, expert on the protection of children in conflict areas, former head of the faculty of early childhood education at Macquarie University, Australia
- David McQuoid Mason, expert on legal aid, founder of Street Law Program, Professor of Law Durban University, Durban
- Tati Krisnawaty, former member of National Commission for Violence Against Women, leading campaigner for women's rights and migrant workers, West Java
- Kieran Dwyer, expert in human rights communications, New York
- Rosalia Sciortino, formerly senior staff with Ford Foundation and Rockefeller Foundation, expert on ASEAN, Bangkok.
- Saku Akmeemana, international lawyer and access to justice specialist, Washington DC
- Howard Varney, expert on investigation and prosecution of mass crimes, advisor to a broad range of TRCs and transitional justice processes, Cape Town
- Dr. Jehan Perera, expert on reconciliation and transitional justice, Colombo
- Mandira Sharma, founder and executive director of the Advocacy Forum of Nepal, expert on transitional justice, combating torture, London/Kathmandu
- Lewis Tyndall, barrister and founder of Climate Roundtable, Sydney
- Pat Walsh, former Advisor to the President of Timor-Leste on reconciliation issues, Dili/Melbourne

Our Team

More than a village took part in building and nurturing AJAR's program.

Patrick Burgess, President Galuh Wandita, Director

Regional

Atikah Nuraini, Institutional Learning Coordinator
Indria Fernida, Program Coordinator
Karen Campbell-Nelson, Institutional Learning and Gender Advisor
Citra Dwi Ayu, Finance Coordinator
Andy Liem, Finance Advisor (Australian Volunteers International)
Yenny Satriyadini, Grant Finance Officer
Neneng Kurniasih, Grant Finance Officer
Marzita Ardiantina, Program Assistant
Clevyra Wang, Training Assistant
Perdana Putri, Communications and Publications Officer

Indonesia

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Selviana Yolanda, Program Officer
Aryo Yudanto, Program Officer
Mulki Makmun, Program Officer
Emmanuella Kania Mamonto, Program Assistant
Sukri Hamdani, Administration and Finance Assistant
Agnes Ayu Ambarwati, Accounting and Administration Assistant
Suyono, Office Assistant

Agnes Chen, Communications and Donor Relations Officer



Timor-Leste

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Myanmar

Laetitia Bonnet, Program Manager May Li Awng, Trainer

Volunteers and Consultants

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Zulfikar Arief, Indonesia

Herizal Arifin, Indonesia

Andi Bhatara, Indonesia

Caroline Baugas, France

Matthew Easton, USA

Ellena Ekarahendy, Indonesia

Anne-Cécile Esteve, France

lan Finch, UK

Muhammad Syafari Firdaus, Indonesia

Phil Gwynne, Australia

Lee-Anne Henfry, Australia

Megan Hirst, Australia/UK

Lisa Houston, UK/Thailand

Nicole Janisiewicz, USA

Cecilia Jimenez, Philippines

Steve Malloch, UK/Thailand

Tegan Molony, New Zealand

Pameo Team, Indonesia

Ramjaneo Pasopati, Indonesia

Cecilia Pechmeze, France

Sigit Pratama, Indonesia

Sikaramel Team, Indonesia

Sorang Saragih, Indonesia

Rizkyka Saraswati, Indonesia

Indra Porhas Siagian, Indonesia

Sriyanto, Indonesia

Suyono, Indonesia

Andrew Riley, USA

Celine Rivat, France

Liset Rommers, USA

Howard Varney, South Africa

Mayra Walsh, Australia

Janu Wibowo, Indonesia

Ian White, Australia

Donors

Brot für die Welt

Delegation of the European Union to Timor-Leste

Foundation for a Just Society

Misereor

Norwegian Human Rights Fund

Oak Foundation

Open Society Foundations

Sigrid Rausing Trust

Tifa Foundation

United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture

U.S. State Department's Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor Affairs (DRL)

Partners

Regional:

- Amnesty International Netherlands
- Casa Asia, Spain
- Centro Nacional Chega! (CNC National Center for Chega), Timor-Leste
- Christian Solidarity Worldwide, UK
- Henry Jackson Society, UK
- Institute for Integrated Transitions (IFIT), Spain
- International Coalition of Sites of Conscience (ICSC), USA
- · Leuven University, Belgium
- SEA Junction, Thailand
- Transitional Justice Asia Network members
 - o Alternative Law Groups (ALG), Philippines
 - o Cross Cultural Foundation (CrCF), Thailand
 - o KontraS (Commission for the Disappeared and Victims of Violence), Aceh, Indonesia
 - o ND-Burma (Network for Human Rights Documentation Burma)
 - o Suriya Women's Development Centre (SWDC), Sri Lanka

Myanmar:

- KWAT (Kachin Women's Association), Thailand
- KWO (Karen Women's Organization)
- ND-Burma (Network for Human Rights Documentation Burma)
- TWO (Ta'ang Women's Organization)
- VWO (Vimutti Women Organization)
- WLB (Women's League of Burma)



Indonesia:

- Amnesty International Indonesia
- Belantara Papua Sorong, Papua
- · ELSHAM (Institute of Human Rights Studies and Advocacy), Papua
- · Humi Inane Wamena, Papua
- IKOHI (Indonesian Association of the Family of the Disappeared)
- Indonesian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- JPIT (East Indonesian Women's Network), Kupang, West Timor
- · KIPPER (Women's Action), Yogyakarta
- KKPK (Coalition of Justice and Truth)
- KKR (Truth and Reconciliation Commission) Aceh
- Komnas HAM (Indonesian National Commission of Human Rights)
- Komnas Perempuan (Indonesian National Commission on Violence Against Women)
- KontraS (Commission for the Disappeared and Victims of Violence), Jakarta
- KontraS (Commission for the Disappeared and Victims of Violence), Sulawesi
- KontraS (Commission for the Disappeared and Victims of Violence), Aceh
- KPKC Gereja Kristen Injili di Tanah Papua (Peace, Justice and the Integrity of Creation Unit, Evangelical Christian Church of Papua)
- LBH (Legal Aid Association), Banda Aceh
- LBH (Legal Aid Association), Bandung
- LBH (Legal Aid Association), Jakarta
- LIPI (Indonesian Institute of Sciences)
- LKK (Institute of Creativity for Humanity)
- · PASKA (Socio-economic Development for Victims of Conflict), Aceh
- PBH Nusa (Legal Aid Association of East Nusa Tenggara), Maumere, Flores
- Protection International Indonesia
- SEPAHAM (Indonesian Consortium of Human Rights Lecturers)
- SKP Keuskupan Agung Merauke (Peace and Justice Secretariat, Bishop's Office of Merauke), Papua
- SKP-HAM (Survivor of Human Rights Crime Solidarity), Palu, Sulawesi
- University of Jember, East Java
- Watch Indonesia, Germany
- Yayasan Indonesia untuk Kemanusiaan (Indonesian Humanitarian Foundation)
- Yayasan Satu Keadilan (Foundation for One Justice)

Timor-Leste:

- ACbit (Chega! for Us Association)
- Alola Foundation
- · Asosiasaun HAK (Association for Law, Human Rights, and Justice)
- AVKP (National Association of Victims)
- CNC (National Centre for Chega)
- CVTL (Timor-Leste Red Cross)
- Fokupers (Forum for Women's Communication)
- Fundasaun Mahein
- ICRC (International Committee of the Red Cross)
- MSS (Ministry of Social Solidarity)
- PDHJ (Office of the Provedor for Human Rights and Justice)



