


# ASIA JUSTICE AND RIGHTS **ANNUAL REPORT**

**2023**





People trapped in cycles of war and political violence experience mass human rights violations that can break their countries, communities, and themselves.

**Annual Report © Asia Justice and Rights 2024**

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**Cover image:** Rohingya girls share a laugh in Kutupalong, the largest refugee camp housing the Rohingya in Kutupalong, Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. © Paula Bronstein/Getty Images

**Image on the next page:** Aerial picture of Rohingya refugee camps in Cox's Bazar, taken in 2018 during a visit with BRAC, when part of the camp was newly built. © Tauheed











# Letter from the President

**T**he shrinking civic space we are experiencing globally – including in the Asia and Pacific region – is making achievement of human and environmental rights for indigenous people, minorities, women, youth, and the disempowered even more challenging. Globally, human rights and justice are being severely tested in the political and social quagmires of Palestine and Ukraine, refugees seeking sanctuary from conflicts in Asia, Africa and Latin America, and with the rise of authoritarian regimes.

Internationally, the United Nations and organisations working in human rights and justice have identified some global trends:

- Convergence of crises: everywhere and all at once. There is no continent on the planet which is not experiencing war, civic strife, and multiple human and natural disasters.
- 2024 is being called “the year of elections” with a rise of dirty election practices, threats to democratic processes, and consolidation of power between those who govern and those who are building and benefiting from economic development.
- A need to increase efforts to safe-guard rights and ensure true equity.
- International principles and practices of human rights must be embraced and ensured in all contexts, in particular for the most vulnerable.

These are not new trends, but deeply rooted in political and social history, go beyond national borders and become regional and even global crises, impacting largely civil populations. In our own Asia Pacific region, Myanmar’s civil war waged against its own ethnic and religious minorities has created a regional crisis including Rohingya seeking refuge in Bangladesh and Indonesia, and exiled communities in Thailand.

Globally, we watch violence erupt yet again in Palestine, with civilian populations being starved, denial of humanitarian assistance, and basic infrastructure – water, electricity, fuel,

hospitals and residential areas – being destroyed. Targeting humanitarian infrastructure violates the principles of distinction and precaution, both foundations of International Humanitarian Law. Virtually the entire population of Gaza is now at risk of famine and mass starvation, directly attributable to military operations in violation of international law and the denial of humanitarian access.

Those of us working for human rights and justice ask of ourselves and our organisations:

*Where and how is justice – human and climate – possible given some of these global trends? What can we – including AJAR – do with our partners, survivor communities, networks and advocacy channels to address these challenges?*

Collectively with our partners and networks, AJAR works to bring about **structural and impactful changes to society** which promote democratic principles and practices that support equity for all, stronger protection of rights, accountability for violations in the past and prevention of violations in the future. At the same time, working and advocating for less impunity, corruption and nepotism. AJAR and partners open channels bringing positive change to individuals, especially victims and the vulnerable. “Help” takes many forms from practical needs and accessing reparations to healing, recognition, and empowerment.

Over AJAR’s almost two decades of work in the field of human rights and transitional justice, we have found our niche. AJAR builds knowledge, awareness and capacities of partner organisations, human rights defenders and community leaders.

AJAR helps victims and victims’ communities to heal and become change-makers.

AJAR reveals and ensures that truths are told.

AJAR supports peace built on justice and accountability in the past and for the future.

As a region, Asia and the Pacific remains vitally important to the world. The region is a dynamic hub of human resources and populations with unmatched diversity, extreme poverty levels, vast inequities, significant indigenous populations, and developing democracies. The region is also globally important in terms of the environment and climate: vast resources (land and sea), aggressive extractive industries, and significant climate change impacts especially related to the island states, oceans, and within food production-food sovereignty.

In the pages of this report are stories of the efforts, achievements and impacts made possible by our supporters, contributors, staff, community leaders, program participants, and collaborators who shared their energy, ideas and hours of life to move justice forward during 2023. We hope you will read about their work and dreams, hopes and challenges, and be inspired to go out into your own community, to join the movement, and work for positive changes.

*What is AJAR looking to do in 2024?*

AJAR commits itself to address the interwoven challenge of human rights and resource management rights: the sustainable and best answer is human AND climate justice. We will continue to model survivor-based human rights work and ensure “do no harm”.

And finally, AJAR invites you - challenging ourselves and others - to get out of our comfort zone and talk with each other, building broader, collective, inclusive movements. It's all about solidarity and working together, remembering that **hope is real**, and **truth is our best weapon**.

This is our sacred space – the space we have in our minds, hearts, family, community, and organisations – which is ours to keep and protect. And our best weapon to fight for the civic space we need to ensure justice for all.

I leave you with the wisdom of Jose Ximenes, one of the stolen children from we accompanied in a reunion to Timor-Leste:

*“By being positive, we keep hope alive.*

*“I don't need to tell the conditions I faced when I was a TBO, what I witnessed, what I went through because it might lead to new conflicts, even though Indonesia and Timor-Leste have reconciled. I just demand that the country acknowledges our existence, the Stolen Children, as victims of the Timor-Leste conflict present in Indonesia. We demand our rights, our family rights, both in Indonesia and Timor-Leste, and we want assurance that in the future, conflicts like this will not happen again, not to our children and grandchildren.”*

**Patrick Burgess**  
President

BANGLADESH

## ● Bangladesh

AJAR's work with the Rohingya in Bangladesh has fostered trust and established a safe learning environment within the broader NGO community through active engagement at both camp and district levels, utilizing a network of trained volunteers. They have amplified local knowledge, context, and aspirations through publications, artwork, events, and documentaries, enabling survivors to voice their own concerns. AJAR has facilitated support for Rohingya survivors, bridging ethnic groups within camps and fostering connections between Bangladeshi and Rohingya youth. They have also cultivated a skilled trauma-healing team, empowering women survivors through ongoing training and livelihood initiatives.

## ● Indonesia

In Indonesia, AJAR has centered victims and survivors in their work, linking stakeholders across levels and fostering knowledge exchange both domestically and internationally. They have empowered youth, facilitated intergenerational learning within survivor communities, and responded to the needs of the social movement. This includes strengthening socio-political-economic analysis, protecting human rights defenders, and supporting formal institutions like national human rights commissions. AJAR has also developed comprehensive training programs and safety nets to protect and defend human rights defenders.

# Where We Work

## ● Myanmar

In Burma, AJAR has cultivated trust within grassroots networks, prioritising survivor-centric approaches and responding to the needs of the social movement. Their efforts have successfully mainstreamed Transitional Justice (TJ) as a post-coup model for the government, while also broadening understanding of TJ through the development of learning materials and courses. Over the years, AJAR has honed its strengths in facilitating south-south learning around TJ, building trust within the grassroots movement, and maintaining a non-partisan stance amidst complex political agendas. By reaching communities in need with empowering methodologies like participatory action research, AJAR continues to make a significant impact on the ground.

## ● Timor Leste

In Timor-Leste, AJAR has fostered a robust social and youth movement, becoming a central hub for learning and advocacy. Their work has led to significant policy changes, including the establishment of reparations, youth engagement in leadership, integration of historical truths into education, and legal reforms. By fostering deep connections within the community and key stakeholders, AJAR continues to contribute to a brighter future for Timor-Leste.

Headquarters  
**Jakarta**

AJAR Learning Centre  
**Bali**

# Initiatives & Networks



## **Asia Justice Coalition (AJC)**

The Asia Justice Coalition was founded by AJAR, Burma Human Rights Network, Centre for Peace and Justice (BRAC University), Burmese Rohingya Organisation UK, The Centre for Policy Alternatives, Fortify Rights, The Global Justice Centre, and The Global Centre for Responsibility to Protect, with the secretariat hosted by Amnesty International. A focus of the AJC is seeking justice for the horrific crimes committed against the Rohingya by the Myanmar military.



## **Global Initiative for Justice, Truth & Reconciliation (GIJTR)**

The Global Initiative for Justice, Truth and Reconciliation brings together advocates, activists and practitioners from global organisations with expertise in a range of fields from psycho-social support and documentation to forensics and law. Together they assist communities in or emerging from conflict in creating just and peaceful futures.



## **Transitional Justice Asia Network (TJAN)**

AJAR continued hosting the Transitional Justice Asia Network (TJAN) — a regional network with members from nine countries (Indonesia, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Philippines, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Bangladesh, Nepal, and South Korea), established five years ago with the goal of increasing the capacity of Asian experts to fight for truth, justice, and human rights.



## **Global Action Against Mass Atrocity Crimes (GAAMAC)**

GAAMAC is an inclusive network created in 2013 by states, civil society organisations, and academic institutions with the support of the United Nations. It works collaboratively to provide a platform for the prevention of mass atrocities (genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and ethnic cleansing). GAAMAC assists interested states in operationalising the prevention of mass atrocities at the national level through information-sharing, enhancing links among and between states, civil society and academia, and peer-to-peer support.



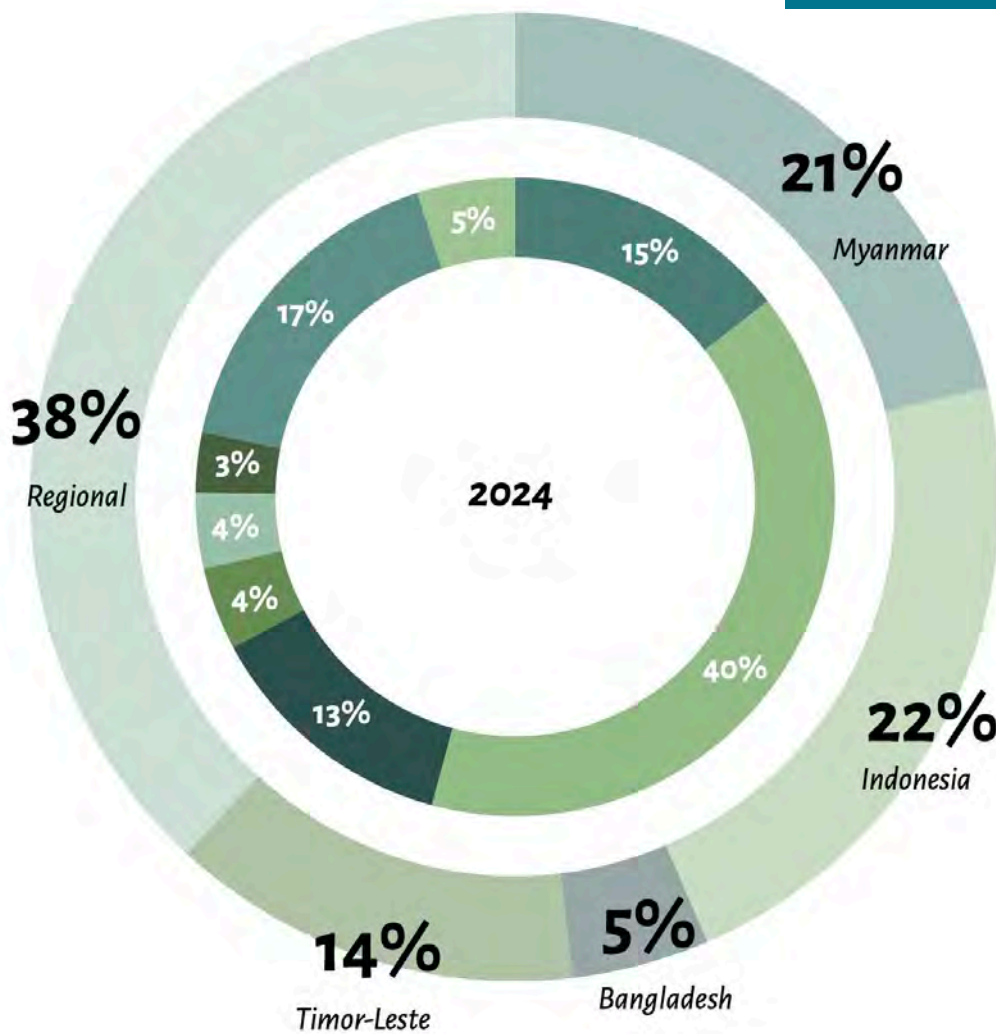
**Global Learning Hub  
for Transitional Justice  
and Reconciliation**

## **The Global Learning Hub for Transitional Justice and Reconciliation**

AJAR joined the initiative of the Berghof Foundation and the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, in collaboration with partners from Germany and across the world. The Hub seeks to strengthen partnerships and to advance the policy and practice of transitional justice through dialogue and mutual learning, practice-oriented knowledge generation, capacity development, and advice.



# AJAR in Numbers



## Total Activity

01. Workshop	104	40%
02. Advocacy meeting/Networking	44	17%
03. Training/Course	38	15%
04. Public discussion	34	13%
05. Others	13	5%
06. Exhibition	11	4%
07. Product launch	10	4%
08. Film screening	8	3%

# Total Engagement and Female Participation








**118.83%**

*Increase in offline engagement post-pandemic, amounting to 9,184 activities last year in more than four countries*



**26.43 %**

*Increase in women participation in AJAR's activities, first time since 2020 that the numbers of women participants surpassed men*



**16.72 %**

*How much advocacy meeting and/or networking have took up part of AJAR's overall activities last year, showing renewed focus on connecting programmes between country teams*

# Program Milestone

Januari 2023	Participants from different ethnic and religious organisations across Myanmar gained knowledge on <b>Human Rights and Freedom of Religion or Belief</b> in online training. Members of the public across Asia joined Myanmar Solidarity movement in public webinar, <b>2 Years of Resistance: Assessing Regional Responses in Addressing the Crisis in Myanmar</b> , organised by Indonesian CSOs.
Februari 2023	Launched the Short Country Study titled “ <b>Bukae ba Sobrivivente: Providing Reparations for Victims of Sexual Violence during the 1975-1999 Conflict in Timor-Leste</b> ”, identifying reparations needs of survivors of conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV).
Maret 2023	Community participants gained participatory action research knowledge and skills in the project “ <b>Promoting accountability for peace through community-led transitional justice with a focus on institutional reform and non-recurrence</b> ” with Solomon Islands Trauma Healing Association (SITHA), part of Peacebuilding and Transitional Justice programme.
April 2023	Returning to their communities throughout Timor-Leste to advance transitional justice work, forty students graduate with advanced Transitional Justice knowledge and skills from AJAR’s <b>Human Rights and Social Justice School (SASCAS)</b>
Mei 2023	Continued solidarity strengthened with ex-political prisoners from the Buru Island concentration camp established by the Suharto dictatorship after 1965/66. Through facilitated <b>participatory documentation workshops, survivors and their families mapped life</b> stories and recovered histories for future generations.
Juni 2023	Advocacy and public awareness strengthened with the publication of “ <b>A Place To Be, A Longing For Home: Twelve Stories of Rohingya Men and Boys Living as Refugees in Bangladesh</b> ”, published by AJAR and the Liberation War Museum Bangladesh.
Juli 2023	Collaborating with Chiang Mai University’s Regional Centre of Sustainable Development (RCSD), <b>AJAR</b> within <b>Transitional Justice Program</b> raised understanding and appreciation of Asian human rights with the release of “ <b>Our Turn</b> ” directed by Na Gyi.



<b>Agustus 2023</b>	Community strengthened among the Stolen Children living in South Sulawesi who have reunited with their families in Timor-Leste at <b>Nahebiti</b> . The event featured an art exhibition, public hearing and book discussion and raised solidarity with the young people in Malili, South Sulawesi.
<b>September 2023</b>	AJAR and partners joined civil society organisations from across the region in Jakarta for the annual <b>ASEAN People's Forum</b> organised under the theme "Reclaiming safe space, restoring democracy in South-East Asia". Hundreds gathered for four plenary sessions, 29 workshops and 25 side-events on the region's most pressing human rights issues.
<b>Oktober 2023</b>	Awareness and understanding raised with members of <b>Youth Martial Arts Group</b> on the impacts of past violence and the role of youth in promoting peace in <b>Timor Leste</b> . Throughout 2023, workshops were held with over thirty-five youth from four different martial arts groups, <b>transforming ideas and action amongst youth</b> to build more peaceful communities.
<b>November 2023</b>	Awareness and solidarity raised concerning Papuan women's situation with " <b>Photo Exhibition on Period Poverty</b> " held in Abepura, Papua following four online workshops on women's rights, photo story methods, socio-economic conditions of women in Papua, and militarism and the impacts of conflict on women.
<b>Desember 2023</b>	Honouring Human Rights Day 2023, community quilt art activities held with Rohingya refugees in Cox's Bazar camps 01 and 16. Quilts were the centrepiece of two public advocacy events " <b>The Quilt's Tale: Unveiling the Voices</b> " and " <b>Exploring Human Rights Through Dialogue and Art</b> " allowing Rohingya women to share their stories of survival and healing.

# Program Impact and Achievements

A look at the documentation process conducted at one of AJAR's human rights learning centres in the refugee camp, Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. © Bengal Creative Media





## Justice and Accountability

*"I will rebuild my life in Myanmar once the repatriation takes place and we will work for reparations within the Rohingya minorities. For the rebuilding of our lives, we should first be working for the prevailing rights, justice and safety of the Rohingya."*

—RV, workshop participant in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh

Formal human rights and accountability mechanisms for mass violations often lose political support. While perpetrators go unpunished and remain unrepentant resulting in the failure of the rule of law and repeat cycles of violence, survivors and civil society activists remain committed to, and continue the struggle for truth and justice.

In order to gain support for greater accountability, AJAR's work amplified voices of victims and civil society activists, and helped them access information and tools to break the cycle of impunity. With partners and within coalitions, AJAR's work promoted the right to truth, repaired trust and lives wrecked by conflict, and empowered the victims and their communities to access justice and build accountability mechanisms at the local, national, and international levels.

### *Meet U Tun Kyi, life-long transitional justice leader, Myanmar*

U Tun Kyi is a former student leader who was arrested by the military junta for his active participation in the 1988 democracy uprising.

As a Muslim, not only did he endure discrimination but also torture during his 7-month arrest and years in the Myingyan prison, notorious for its treatment of religious and ethnic minorities and deaths of over 100 political prisoners. He still suffers from nightmares.



U Tun Kyi, activist from Myanmar. © Private

Since his release, he has been working with an organisation that supports former political prisoners and within interfaith network. U Tun Kyi also attended one of AJAR transitional justice training, commented: *“I have come to realise that the implementation of transitional justice is a must to hold the dictators accountable for the past crimes committed and bring justice for victims and survivors.”*

He believes it is the responsibility of the international community to bring Min Aung Hlaing and military generals — who have been enjoying impunity for war crimes, crimes against humanity, and mass killings against innocent civilians — before the International Criminal Court.

## Meet S, Rohingya community and AJAR facilitator, Refugee Camp, Bangladesh

Senoara, a Rohingya facilitator from Cox’s Bazar, Bangladesh, arrived with her family in October 2017 after fleeing the violence in Myanmar that left their home destroyed.

Through AJAR’s workshops, she gained a deeper understanding of rights and justice, particularly emphasising the importance of non-discrimination for the Rohingya people’s future.

Joining AJAR as a participant and later a volunteer in 2019 marked a turning point for Senoara. She found her voice and gained the confidence to share her story publicly. This personal

growth exemplifies AJAR’s commitment to empowering and strengthening victims through education, skills development, and support throughout their healing journey.



S and Rohingya women participating in a quilting workshop in Cox’s Bazar, Bangladesh © Asia Justice and Rights/Nasrin Akter

Senoara sees herself and other Rohingya women not only transforming their own lives but also contributing positively to their communities, demonstrating the lasting impact of AJAR’s work: *“Participating in AJAR’s workshops has been enlightening for me, especially understanding rights and justice.”*



A visitor reading the story of Rohingya women, woven into the quilts displayed in an exhibition in Bangkok, Thailand © Asia Justice and Rights/Aghniadi



*Non-discrimination holds significant importance to me: unless Myanmar embraces this principle, we Rohingyas will be like floating flowers, unable to put down roots.”*

Senoara and her friends’ quiltworks have been featured in a roving exhibition that began in Dhaka, Bangladesh, and has since traveled to Bangkok, Mae Sot, and Chiang Mai in Thailand. The exhibition, aimed at raising awareness about the Rohingya crisis in the Asia-Pacific region, will continue its journey to Bali and Jakarta, Indonesia this year.

## Meet Bikeli, one of Timor-Leste’s Stolen Children



Bikeli photographed embracing her sister — she was 10 year-old when the army took her to Indonesia from East Timor © Asia Justice and Rights/Armin Septiexan

Born in 1969 in Maubessi, Ainaro, *Bikeli* — the name given to her as a child and as she would like to be addressed — had a normal childhood, crossing rivers to school with her friend Lita, listening to her teenage sister talk of falling in love, helping her mother plant corn until the Indonesian invasion in 1975 scattered her family. Young Bikeli fled to the woods carrying her brother, Domingus, but was captured by the Indonesian military and began working as a cook for them. Her brother did not survive.

She was taken to Toraja, Indonesia by a soldier who became her adoptive father. While he treated her well, the rest of the family did not: she worked the fields, ate left-over food, and faced mistreatment. Despite longing to return, she couldn’t find a way back to Timor-Leste.

In 2018, through the efforts of AJAR and the Labarik Lakon Working Group, Bikeli’s information was relayed to Timor-Leste. Reunion processes began, but threats and obstacles hindered her return. In 2023 after 44 years, Bikili was reunited with her family in Timor-Leste.

## Meet Azharul Husna, Coordinator of Aceh’s Commission for Disappeared and Victims of Violence (KontraS Aceh) and TJAN member

AJAR’s longtime partner, KontraS Aceh, collaborated closely during a challenging year for advocacy in Indonesia. Early in the year, both organisations participated in a global project for mapping monuments and memorialisation practices in Aceh, Indonesia. This effort proved timely, as last year also saw the government mistakenly demolished Rumoh Geudong, a former torture site and place of remembrance for victims.



Azharul Husna from KontraS Aceh © Private

As a founding member of the Transitional Justice Asia Network (TJAN), KontraS Aceh also actively works to advance human rights in Aceh and the region. This commitment was evident in their efforts to advocate for Rohingya refugees arriving in Indonesia due to the worsening situation in Myanmar.

Azharul Husna from KontraS Aceh, stated, “As TJAN members, we continuously strengthen our understanding, learning, and experiences from other countries. This is invaluable in promoting transitional justice in Indonesia, especially Aceh. By employing diverse approaches to support victims in Aceh, we can break the cycle of conflict for the future.»

## Select Program Highlights



*With support from the European Union and the Foundation for Human Rights (FHR), AJAR developed and published a Transitional Justice Handbook last year. This practical guide is designed for survivors, civil society organisations, and government actors seeking to learn from transitional justice*

*initiatives worldwide. The Handbook covers new developments from the field, through 2023.*



### Myanmar

Human rights organisations maintain that the situation in Myanmar is worsening, with the military junta maintaining control and exploiting the country's national resources, while creating terror and violence amongst minorities. The international community has imposed some economic and political sanctions, but the violence and human rights abuses continue.

AJAR as a founding member of the Transitional Justice Alliance worked to influence the National Unity Consultative Council (NUCC) and mainstream “Transitional Justice” within political dialogue and across many stakeholders. AJAR built relationships with MOJ, NUG and Ethnic Political stakeholders, while building momentum for advocacy work within ASEAN and International judicial mechanisms.

### Rohingya Refugees in Bangladesh

As the military occupation of Myanmar persists, many Rohingya estranged from their homeland and stripped of their rights continue to suffer, and their need for justice burns even more ferociously. Rohingya community members in the

wake of atrocities and increased restrictions in the camps demonstrated an extraordinary will to fight on and persevere for a better future.

Empowered with courage, hope, education, and resources, Rohingya youth have the potential to become powerful human rights defenders and activists, leading their communities and diaspora towards a just and peaceful future. AJAR's Human Rights Learning Centres, situated in several camps in Cox's Bazar, continued to play a crucial role in mobilising intergenerational learning and healing, while building the capacity for human rights defenders (HRDs) and civil society actors in areas such as gender-based violence, human rights, and access to justice.

AJAR and local partners employed participatory documentation to create the Rohingya Oral History Archive (ROHA) and collected more than 100 oral histories to ensure that stories and histories contribute to healing, truth, and justice. AJAR also organised numerous impactful events, including two international exhibitions and a regional summit, observances of Human Rights Day and Rohingya Genocide Remembrance Day, exchanges between diverse ethnic groups from Myanmar, collaborations with the International Criminal Court (ICC), the National Unity Consultative Council (NUCC), and religious groups, and transitional justice workshops with government officials in Bangladesh.

### Indonesia

In preparation for 2024, 2023 was a year of consolidation of political power from elite circles down to regional and local levels. The likely successor — a former general associated with human rights abuses and war crimes — may pose significant challenges for human rights movements in the country.

At the official Nonjudicial Resolution of Past Serious Human Rights Violation (PPHAM) event, President Jokowi expressed regret over the past human rights violations, but there was no mention of an official state apology. The government later stated that they will never apologise for state-sponsored human rights violations.



Subsequent months saw rushed programs implemented without meaningful consultation with survivor communities or the establishment of a victims registry, a concern first observed during the premature program launch in Aceh. This resulted in an uneven distribution of reparations, primarily benefiting those with immediate access. Civil society organisations navigate this precarious political landscape, knowing the need for unwavering dedication to human rights principles has never been more critical, and ensuring that the voices of victims are heard and their rights upheld in the face of adversity.

AJAR actively worked to ensure truth prevailed by holding state institutions accountable. This included holding the Ombudsman for Human Rights and Justice in Timor-Leste and the National Human Rights Commission in Indonesia responsible for unresolved issues between the two countries, such as the rights, unification, and reparations for *stolen children*. Additionally, AJAR supported the Aceh Truth and Reconciliation Commission in launching their findings report and channelled public critique of the PPHAM process and findings.



The launch of the Study on the Opportunities & Challenges to Providing Reparations to Survivors of CRSV in Dili, Timor-Leste © Asia Justice and Rights/Cezario Cesar

## Timor-Leste

In a year marked by political shifts in Timor-Leste, AJAR focused on addressing the community's ongoing need for healing, protection, and reparations for victims of violence.

Unresolved human rights issues and accountability between Timor-Leste and Indonesia continued to hinder family reunification across the border.

AJAR aimed to strengthen justice and accountability by positioning itself as a key member of the civil society community in Timor, providing ongoing technical support to the Centro Nacional *Chega!*, staffing the Human Rights Centre with graduates of AJAR's Human Rights School, and ensuring government accountability through advocacy efforts. This included drafting a reparations policy, and resolving forced displacement cases.

AJAR, in partnership with Asosiasaun Chega! Ba Ita and supported by the Global Survivors Fund, collaborated with survivors to co-create and identify potential interim reparative measures starting in 2020. This collaborative effort culminated in the publication of a short country study titled "Bukae ba Sobrevivente" on 24 March, coinciding with the International Day for the Right to Truth. The study explored the opportunities and challenges to providing reparations to survivors of conflict-related sexual violence.

## Peaceful and Tolerant Societies

Transitions and power shifts often exacerbate divisions in society, as those seeking power capitalise on religious and ethnic differences. Extremists, assisted by social media and relying on prejudices and ignorance, manipulate social-economic discontent to spread hate and violence. A tolerant majority is often silenced or becomes apathetic. In this way, cultures and roots of tolerance are threatened by extremism.

AJAR believes society must band together with diverse voices to nurture traditions of tolerance and peace, diversity and non-violence, and ensure that those who speak out are better equipped and protected. AJAR's work built capacities of

victims, minority groups, women, and youth to strengthen their voices and protect their rights, including access to justice. Their voices and efforts continue to build momentum towards more peaceful and tolerant societies.

Keen to learn more about AJAR's research studies, learning materials, and advocacy initiatives featured in this publication? Scan the QR codes throughout this report to access them or go to our Resources repository: [asia-ajar.org/resources](https://asia-ajar.org/resources)



## Meet the Artists' Shelter: Rescuing Creativity Amidst Exile



A key scene from the short film "Our Turn", directed by Na Gyi © Asia Justice and Rights/Cezario Cesar

Driven from their homeland by Myanmar's unrest, a group of Burmese artists found refuge and purpose in creating a collective sanctuary: the Artists' Shelter. Recognising the challenges faced by artists in exile, the shelter nurtures creativity for them, providing a safe space for artistic expression.

Encompassing filmmakers, musicians, photographers, actors, poets, writers, painters, and more, these artists use their diverse mediums to bridge the gap between themselves and their Myanmar audiences. The Artists' Shelter, conceptualised in April 2023 alongside 'နိုင်ငံပျောက်သူ', initially faced

financial constraints. However, a turning point arrived with the production of 'Our Turn,' a short film which AJAR supported and made public in July for Myanmar audience and beyond. The film's international acclaim generated much-needed funds. AJAR is now supporting a second film focused on transitional justice.

Na Gyi, the director, reflects on the difficulties of filmmaking in exile but remains determined to tell the stories of Myanmar's people. "This film is my act of rebellion against the military junta," he says, "a manifestation of my belief that every individual in Burma finds their own unique way to resist."

Now, the Artists' Shelter has become a collective for numerous Burmese artists in Thailand and worldwide. Over 300 artists have applied, with 150 active members.

## Meet Motiur Rahman, AJAR volunteer in Cox's Bazar, Rohingya in Bangladesh

"Disabled from age three, I am physically challenged but that hasn't stopped me."



An award is presented to Motiur for his leadership in facilitating a group of © Asia Justice and Rights





Youth from the refugee camps of Naibonat, Noelbaki, and Tuapukan organised a personal exhibition about lives in camps. © Komunitas Film Kupang

Motiur Rahman, an AJAR volunteer in one of the refugee camp in Bangladesh, who despite being disabled since the age of three, has not let his physical challenges hinder him. Determined and resilient, he completed his studies at a *madrasa* before seeking refuge in Bangladesh in 2017, enduring a difficult journey due to his disability.

Life in the camp presented new challenges, but Motiur's life changed when he joined the local community, Handicap and learned about AJAR. Now, as a dedicated volunteer, he leads a team of two Rohingya participants, driven by his mission to empower his community through awareness and knowledge.

Motiur's inspiring story showcases the power of perseverance and the belief that disability is not a weakness. His dedication to helping others facing similar challenges and his unwavering work ethic have earned him recognition, including AJAR's Best Facilitator Award.

## Meet Uma Da Paz Community, Indonesia

Springing from AJAR's Community Learning Centre program initiated in 2020, youth participants from three refugee camps formed *Uma Da Paz* (Timor-Leste's Tetun language, 'House of Peace'). *Uma* is a learning community focusing on the

experiences of refugees, a place to develop political education and deepen understanding of human rights, and strengthen capacities of young people, including agriculture. In Naibonat, several community garden plots are managed by camp youth; while in Noelbaki, vegetables are planted collectively and at harvest distributed to the camp residents.

*Uma* facilitates exchanges between camps and along the border, and organised community exhibitions. A participant reflected, "This was my first opportunity to get to know my ex-East Timor friends. Up till now, I only knew them as troublemakers, but through the exhibition I got to know my friends as complete human beings."

A camp resident and member of *Uma Da Paz* stated: "No one deserves to suffer injustice. We, citizens of former East Timor, feel that we have not received our rights as Indonesian citizens. We have identify cards that show that we are part of Indonesia, but often we are still called or known as 'refugees'. We have not yet received the right to be recognised as part of Indonesia. Rights that cannot be obtained are wounds that do not heal. But unobtainable rights are not the end of everything. It's not a reason to give up and it's not an obstacle to growing."

## Meet the community of SITHA, Solomon Islands



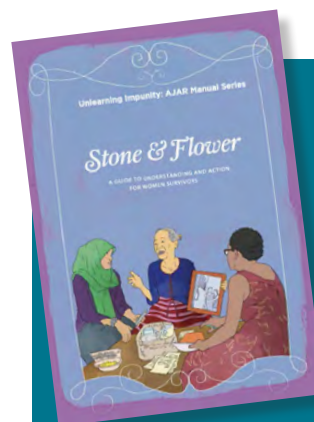
Solomon Islands Trauma Healing Association. © SITHA

The Solomon Islands Trauma Healing Association (SITHA) is a nonprofit formed to do counseling work with traumatised people in the Solomon Islands. SITHA's work with AJAR brought healing to survivors, victims and communities affected by violence in Solomon Islands.

A participant in the program reported, *"Trauma healing using AJAR's participatory documentation methods allowed deep learning within community. Previously, we had been doing some healing work within churches, and with family and friends. Working with AJAR helped us expand our caring circles and go back into the communities most affected by violence."*

AJAR provided training using participatory action research methodologies such as the *house of peace*, *stone and flower*, *tree of accountability*, and *river of life*, empowering participants to share their trauma and experiences with ethnic violence. Many in Malanga and Marau admitted they had never spoken about their experiences before, but the PAR process gave them the voice and space to begin healing.

SITHA and its community was an important counterpart of the ongoing "Peacebuilding and Transitional Justice" program, that exchange peacebuilding experience and initiatives in Solomon Islands, Thailand, Indonesia, and Timor-Leste under the support of the European Union since 2021.



'Stone and Flower' and 'Mosaic' are two sets of participatory action research methodologies that AJAR has developed since 2013. These methodologies have been used by over 1,000 women survivors of serious human rights violations across Indonesia, Timor-Leste,

Myanmar, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, the Solomon Islands, and Bougainville in Papua New Guinea.



## Meet the men and women of Fundasaun Knua Habaran Komunitade (KHC), Timor-Leste

Fundasaun KHC, a Viqueque-based nongovernmental organisation and member of the AJAR-led Learning Consortium, focused on addressing gender-based violence (GBV) in Timor-Leste as part of the Spotlight Initiative program. The *Consortium* was established by 23 organisations in to strengthen civil society's capacity to respond to and prevent gender-based violence in Timor-Leste.

After joining the learning consortium, KHC engaged and organised groups of men prone to violence in Uma-Kiik village. Activities included training on gender-based violence (GBV) and agriculture as alternative sources of income for men. KHC identified economic challenges as triggers for violence, emphasising the importance of addressing family income and employment opportunities.





Fundasaun Knua Haberaun Komunitade (KHC) © Private

Gally, a beneficiary of KHC's pilot project, attested, *"These activities made me aware, and reflecting on past behavior, see what often triggered me to commit violence against my own family. Now, with the duck farming facilitated by KHC, I am busy taking care of the animals, and I no longer have time for drinking alcohol."*

These innovative activities organised by KHC for men's groups brought about significant change in societal awareness. Men are now recognised as crucial actors in combating violence through positive initiatives, and reducing violence against women and girls in Viqueque municipality.

## Select Program Highlights

### Myanmar

There are few more urgent issues than creating a climate of peace and tolerance based on truth, understanding and respect within the complex diversities of Myanmar.

The military junta, in an effort to solidify its power base, employs public slander tactics to degrade and discriminate against various ethnic groups, including the Rohingya,

fostering distrust and division. To counter this, AJAR's work included a "sharing of stories" film project aimed at presenting realistic and positive portrayals of the Rohingya to Burmese audiences.

AJAR engaged diverse audiences and stakeholders—including young people, government officials, and ethnic leaders—with knowledge and strategies to foster the growth of transitional justice. Two public festivals were held in Chiang Mai, Thailand, in collaboration with academics, Thai-Burmese diaspora, and activist networks: the #WithTheRohingya conference commemorating Rohingya Genocide Remembrance Day in August, and the Myanmar Human Rights Festival in November to observe 16 Days of Activism.



Exhibition of Myanmar Human Rights Festival. © Spirit in Education

Grassroots reach and civil society resilience program was also done with AJAR facilitators in Bangladesh, enabling exchange programming for women of diverse ethnicities (Rohingya, Kachin, and Tanang).

## Rohingya Refugees in Bangladesh

*"Today, I am still living in the refugee camp, but I have not lost hope for a better future. I continue to be a voice for my people, sharing our stories with the world and advocating for justice and peace. My journey has been filled with hardships and challenges, but through it all, I have remained strong and determined. I hope that one day, we will be able to return to our homeland and rebuild our lives in peace and security. Until then, I will continue to fight for the rights and dignity of my people, never giving up on our dreams of a better tomorrow."*

—MB, A Rohingya participant during participatory documentation session.

Building peaceful and tolerance amongst ethnic and political diversity is a priority in AJAR's programming with the Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh. AJAR's Human Rights Learning Centres in Cox's Bazar involved 38 volunteers and 76 participants in numerous learning and community-building activities on human rights, transitional justice, atrocity prevention, facilitation skills, and gender-based violence (GBV). The centres also served as a place for cultural and community gatherings.

In an effort to foster peace, truth, and understanding, AJAR implemented multiple initiatives including two ongoing processes of participatory documentation and research. Within the Rohingya Oral History Archive project, the team collected hundreds of survivor stories, weaving a history based on their experiences and truth. Seven internships connected young people across ASEAN with local partners, while a survivors' exchange facilitated cross-cultural understanding among diverse ethnic groups. Rohingya youth authored a series of storybooks, spanning 12 volumes and a documentary film, created by Rohingya photographers, captured the resilient spirit and daily challenges of life as refugees in the camps. These combined efforts aimed to amplify voices, foster dialogue, and promote healing within the Rohingya community and beyond.

## Indonesia

AJAR empowered communities to advocate for their rights, fostering understanding and peace. In Papua, women market sellers successfully organised to gain market access and strengthen their economic rights. In Aceh, a community-led

memorial challenged government-proposed solutions and remedies — sparking a national discourse on nonjudicial route of solving past human rights violations.

Meanwhile, AJAR collaborated with local partners to build environments for sustainable peace. Youth dialogues along the Timor-Leste-Indonesia border fostered understanding, healing, and peace among a divided and volatile youth population. The *house of peace* methodology was employed to address fear of conflict in Aceh and the stolen children community. Moreover, peacebuilding and transitional justice courses were organised to promote collective healing and transform conflict histories, contributing to a sustainable and informed peace.

## Timor-Leste

AJAR's commitment to building sustainable peace in Timor-Leste involved collaborating with beneficiaries and local partners to foster a society grounded in truth and understanding. Through co-created projects, survivors gained confidence and competence to advocate for themselves, while NGOs strengthened their capacities in gender-based violence prevention and organisational management.

Educational materials were developed and submitted to the Ministry of Education to promote an authentic history and create avenues for peace. Other initiatives also empowered women in three municipalities through small business development and and AJAR continued to facilitate reunions between children stolen from Timor-Leste and their birth families after nearly 50 years of separation.

This year, AJAR continued to engage further into the complex challenge of Martial and Ritual Arts Groups (MRAGs) in Timor-Leste, addressing the root causes of why large numbers of youth are recruited into these groups and engage in violence. This issue is linked to the feelings of exclusion and alienation from political and socio-economic processes experienced by many young people across the country. AJAR actively held workshops and met with youth across Timor to facilitate educational and economic opportunities, while promoting a culture of peace.





AJAR quoted in national newspaper in response to the ongoing discourse about the government's planned settlement for human rights violations. © The Jakarta Post

## Climate Justice

Dictatorships and armed conflicts are often triggered by the exploitation of natural resources. Indigenous people and ethnic communities struggle for survival in the face of environmental degradation. Corruption, frequently linked to resource exploitation, decreases the potential for successful transitions to democracy. Large corporations,

linked to powerful elites, continue unsustainable development practices that put the planet at risk. Communities are fighting back to protect their land and forests.

AJAR's approach to human rights integrates an awareness of how unchecked exploitation of nature affects human survival, particularly among ethnic minorities, indigenous people, and the politically estranged. AJAR with partners and within coalitions worked to strengthen understanding and the analysis linking corruption, impunity, and natural resource exploitation. AJAR contributed to climate justice by aligning with communities that suffer disproportionately from the impact of climate change, and working with them to protect their rights to a safe and sustainable environment.



AJAR with the Community Learning Centre in Savanajaya discussed strategies to address climate and environmental change. © Asia Justice and Rights/Julinta Moreng

An example of this work is in Savanajaya, Buru Island, a community often overlooked in Indonesia's history. AJAR facilitated participatory action research and inter-generational dialogue with ex-political prisoners from 1965-66 and their families living on the island. Through "timeline" and "community mapping" exercises, AJAR brought to light the community's rich "unwritten history" and experiences, exploring the deep impacts of natural resource exploitation and climate change.

The community came to know the history of development of Buru Island from the arrival of the political prisoners in 1969 to the present, and what must be done prevent their environment in

Savanajaya from being damaged in the future. The PAR community dialogues explored the impacts of recent illegal gold mining activity damaging their environment, and deteriorating soil and water quality, especially in the cultivated rice fields and drinking water. The illegal gold mine — located in Botak Mountain, 28 kilometres away — has heavily impacted both the security and environmental conditions of their village.

The historical trauma and damage continue to shape the community's present reality, influencing both political rights and basic livelihoods. AJAR understood that healing and envisioning the future required an intergenerational approach. By understanding the island's development history, the community gained insights into how to prevent future environmental damage.

## South-South, Regional and Global Initiatives

AJAR's position as a regional organisation allowed for cross-border learning, consolidation, and advocacy between countries and at the regional and international level. Within our country programmes in Indonesia, Timor-Leste, Myanmar, and Bangladesh, we continue to empower victims of human rights and gender-based violence to speak out, provide support and protection for human rights defenders, and encourage young people to champion human rights for all, including the rights of minority groups.

The regional advocacy in the year was marked by a series of strategic engagements and collaborations to address critical human rights issues in the Asia-Pacific region, particularly the critical human rights and women's rights situation in Myanmar, including the Rohingya refugee crisis. In February, AJAR partnered with Indonesian CSOs for Myanmar solidarity to host meetings with Rohingya activist Yasmin Ullah and ALTSEAN-Burma Coordinator Debbie Stothard. These meetings aimed to raise awareness about the dire human rights and women's rights situation in Myanmar, including the Rohingya refugee crisis, and to influence Indonesia and ASEAN to adopt a more progressive and cohesive approach.



AJAR, along with partners across Asia-Pacific, organised “Strengthening and Sustaining Peace and Guarantees of Non-Recurrence in the Asia-Pacific Region” international summit, inviting a regional network of individuals and organisations for truth, justice, and peacebuilding © Asia Justice and Rights

The meetings included representatives from KontraS Aceh and the Geutanyoe Foundation, both of which work closely with Rohingya refugees in Aceh, Indonesia. Consultations with Komnas HAM and Komnas Perempuan highlighted the plight of Rohingya refugees in the region, leading to plans for a public hearing on the issue. The CSOs coalition agreed to further discussions on Myanmar, including the Rohingya situation.

AJAR also participated in meetings with UN officials, such as George Okoth-Obbo, Assistant Secretary-General and Special Advisor to the UN Secretary-General on the Responsibility to Protect (R2P). During this meeting, AJAR shared insights on its advocacy work concerning Myanmar and the Rohingya in





Beyond these engagements, AJAR organised the first training for the Rohingya Oral History Archives (ROHA) project, involving local partners from Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand. This training aimed to equip participants with the knowledge and skills necessary for programme implementation and to foster discussions on the current conditions faced by Rohingya refugees in the region.

AJAR also participated in various online and offline events, including webinars, consultations, and press conferences, to commemorate the second anniversary of the Myanmar military coup and advocate for a responsive ASEAN approach to the crisis.

In addition to these efforts, AJAR played an active role in the ASEAN People's Forum (APF), contributing to discussions on priority issues such as climate and economic justice, migration, shrinking democratic space, security sector reform, and women's rights. AJAR's participation in the ACSC/APF 2023 further solidified our commitment to advancing human rights and justice in the region.

Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. Additionally, AJAR contributed to a roundtable discussion organised by ASEAN Parliamentarians for Human Rights, focusing on the Myanmar crisis and the role of Indonesian CSOs in international solidarity and democracy efforts.

In June, AJAR participated in a meeting with UN Special Rapporteur on the Situation in Myanmar, Tom Andrews, during his official visit to Indonesia. The meeting provided an opportunity for AJAR and other CSOs to raise concerns about the situation of Rohingya refugees in Aceh, the lack of local regulations for refugee protection, and the Indonesian Chairmanship of ASEAN.



AJAR joined the organising committee to a successful ACSC/APF event, which will be hosted by Timor-Leste in 2024 © ACSC/APF

## Interview with Ajarn Chayan

*Regional Center for Social Science and Sustainable Development (RCSD) of Chiang Mai University*

# Partnering with AJAR to build Transitional Justice for Myanmar

Mr Ajarn Chayan saw great potential in the partnership between AJAR and RCSD. He envisioned collaborative programs and activities focused on Myanmar, aiming to shed light on the ongoing conflict and contribute to the rebuilding of Myanmar society. He acknowledged the unfortunate reality of the conflict becoming a forgotten one, fading into a perceived norm.

“One of the challenges is how to find a mechanism to inform people at the policy level. AJAR and RCSD could plan to organise this kind of consultation, or information sharing. A dialogue where people can come together with different ideas, an exchange, and then make a recommendation that is agreed upon by both sides.”

To this end, he suggested that AJAR and the NGO/CSO network initiate contact with Members of Parliament or even the National Unity Government (NUG), facilitating a platform for dialogue and recommendations.

RCSD, he assured, would continue its essential role as an academic institution, offering teaching, research, workshops, training, and policy registration for Myanmar.

“The partnership between organisation like AJAR and RCSD is important. It is for those who are in Myanmar — those who are trying to build hope and look for the hope in Myanmar.”





Looking  
Forward



Supporting communities and building societies based on fundamental human rights for all, freedom from discrimination and fear, integration based on understanding and tolerance, accountability of perpetrators, and embracing sustainable lifestyles and livelihoods within the caring capacity of our ecosystem... these principles define AJAR's present and future. Our very humanity and survival depend on us paying attention and putting in place the systems, institutions and practices of justice.

As AJAR moves into 2024 and our next 5-year strategic plan, we reflect and learn alongside our partners, networks, collaborators and communities. Several key learnings inform these discussions.

In the face of atrocities, persecution, impunity and repeated injustices, young people demonstrate an extraordinary resilience and determination to turn hope into action. With access to education and resources, they have the potential to become powerful human rights defenders and activists, leading their communities to just and peaceful futures. This is a crucial niche for AJAR: enabling and channeling the energy and hope of youth to create societies built on justice and accountability.

We also see the value of exploring strategic, systemic change through existing formal channels, such as national truth and accountability processes, anti-corruption commissions, and collaboration with policy-focused networks. While continuing to utilise UN and international mechanisms, it's vital that AJAR understands and leverages all these forums – both international and national – as opportunities for building solidarity and systemic, sustainable change.

The COVID era highlighted the importance of online training, dialogue, and IT-based communication, as well as the development of knowledge and learning products. As we revitalise our face-to-face, hands-on work, we can make the most of the systems and tools that were developed during this time.

We increasingly understand that human rights transcends national boundaries. Our Indonesia and Timor Leste programs coordinated during legal hearings and reconciliation of Stolen Children with families, demonstrating the power of regional

and inter-country initiatives. Significant collaborative advocacy and public awareness efforts have taken place on behalf of the Rohingya across the region and globe, highlighting the importance of AJAR's ability to facilitate such initiatives.

Our work is grounded in human rights and human dignity. Transitional Justice engages with the past, reasserts rights and justice, demands accountability, and enables democracy to take root. However, with democracy declining globally and civic space shrinking, AJAR must find new ways to influence these systems and leaders, while protecting the most vulnerable, including the human rights defenders on the front lines fighting for justice.

Ultimately, needs to broaden the movement and engage those who share our human rights and justice values. By working together and building solidarity, we can let the stories of freedom, justice, resilience motivate and inspire us to continue our crucial work.

***"I am actively involved in supporting human rights in order to prevent various forms of violence such as killing, rape, murder, kidnapping, human trafficking, sexual harassment, and other atrocities within our community. My main priorities will be education, knowledge, and skills, which I will pursue in my own unique way. Promoting civic education and active citizen participation is crucial for building a strong foundation against authoritarian regimes. It is important to educate and engage citizens in order to foster a society that is well-informed and actively involved in shaping its own future."***

**— WK, A Rohingya participant during participatory documentation session**



# Thank You

## Donor

### *Governments and Multilateral Organisations*

- Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor (DRL), United States Department of State
- Centro Nacional Chega! (CNC)
- Civil Society Support and Social Audit Service of Timor-Leste (SASCAS/ Serviço de Apoio à Sociedade Civil e Auditoria Social/Civil)
- Embassy of Switzerland in Indonesia, Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs
- Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands
- Embassy of the United States to the Republic of Indonesia
- Royal Norwegian Embassy, Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Swiss Task Force - Dealing with the Past
- The European Union
- United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women)
- United Nations Democracy Fund (UNDEF)

### *Foundations and Nongovernmental Organisations*

- American Jewish World Service
- Australian National University (ANU)
- Australian Volunteer Program (AVP)
- Berghoff Foundation
- Bread for the World (Brot für die Welt)
- Canada Fund for Local Initiatives
- Foundation for a Just Society
- Fund for Global Human Rights
- Global Survivors Fund (GSF)
- Impunity Watch
- International Coalition of Sites of Conscience (ICSC)
- International Committee of The Red Cross (ICRC)
- International Development Research Centre
- Misereor
- MyJustice
- Open Society Foundation (OSF)
- Tifa Foundation

## Partners

### *Regional*

- Aceh Truth and Reconciliation Commission (KKR Aceh), Indonesia
- Advocacy Forum, Nepal
- Alliance of Independent Journalists (AIJ), Indonesia
- Alternative ASEAN Network for Burma (ALTSEAN)
- Alternative Law Groups (ALG), Philippines
- ASEAN Youth Forum
- Asia Democracy Network (ADN)
- Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development (FORUM ASIA)
- Asosiasaun Chega! Ba Ita (ACbit/Chega! for Us Association), Timor-Leste
- Balay Alternative Legal Advocates for Development of Mindanaw (BALAOD Mindanaw), the Philippines
- Beyond Borders Malaysia, Malaysia
- Center for Study of Violence and Reconciliation, South Africa
- Centro Nacional Chega! (CNC), Timor-Leste
- Commission for the Disappeared and Victims of Violence (KontraS)
- Commission for the Disappeared and Victims of Violence Aceh (KontraS Aceh), Indonesia
- Cross-Cultural Foundation (CrCF), Thailand
- Duay Jai (Hearty Support) Group, Thailand
- Due Process of Law Foundation (DPLF)
- Institute for Human Rights Study and Advocacy in Papua (Elsham Papua), Indonesia
- Geutanyoe Foundation
- Global Action Against Mass Atrocities (GAAMAC)
- Global Initiative for Justice, Truth and Reconciliation (GIJTR)
- Global Learning Hub Transitional Justice and Reconciliation
- Global Survivors Fund (GSF)
- Humanitarian Law Centre, Serbia
- Initiatives for International Dialogue (IID)
- International Coalition of Sites of Conscience (ICSC), USA
- Jesuit Refugee Service
- Legal Aid Institute (LBH), Banda Aceh, Indonesia
- Liberation War Museum, Bangladesh
- Myanmar National Organizing Committee for ACSC/APF
- Network for Human Rights Documentation–Burma (ND–Burma)
- Progressive Voice Myanmar, Myanmar
- Public International Law and Policy Group (PILPG)
- Solomon Islands Trauma Healing Association (SITHA), Solomon Islands
- South East Asia Junction (SEA Junction), Thailand
- SUAKA - The Indonesian Civil Society Network for Refugee
- Suriya Women's Development Centre, Sri Lanka
- Tebtebba, the Philippines
- The 18 May Memorial Foundation, South Korea
- The ASEAN SOGIE Caucus
- Transitional Justice Asia Network
- UPN Veteran Jakarta, Indonesia
- Videre Est Credere

## Indonesia

- Advocacy Institute for Women's Care (eL\_AdPPer), Merauke, Indonesia
- Amnesty International Indonesia, Indonesia
- Australian National University (ANU)
- Bersatu untuk Kebenaran (BuK)
- Bijung Indonesia, Indonesia
- Center for Imagine Society Timor (CIS Timor)
- Coalition of Justice and Truth (KKPK)
- Coalition of the Women's Movement to Save Papuans (Koalisi Perempuan Papua Bergerak Selamatkan Manusia Papua)
- Commission for the Disappeared and Victims of Violence (KontraS), Indonesia
- Commission for the Disappeared and Victims of Violence Aceh (KontraS Aceh), Indonesia
- Commission for the Disappeared and Victims of Violence Papua (KontraS Papua), Indonesia
- Commission for the Disappeared and Victims of Violence Sulawesi (KontraS Sulawesi), Indonesia
- Commission for the Disappeared and Victims of Violence Surabaya (KontraS Surabaya), Indonesia
- East Indonesian Women's Network (JPIT/Jaringan Perempuan Indonesia Timur), Kupang
- Forum of Human Rights Education and Struggle (Fopperham/Forum Pendidikan dan Perjuangan Hak Asasi Manusia)
- Foundation of Legal Aid Association of Indonesia (YLBHI), Jakarta
- Fransiscans International
- Humi Inane Foundation, Wamena
- Ikatan Mahasiswa Boven Digoel (IMADI)
- Indonesian Association of the Family of the Disappeared (IKOHI)
- Indonesian Consortium of Human Rights Lecturers (SEPAHAM)
- Institute for Human Rights Study and Advocacy in Papua (Elsham Papua)
- Jayapura Support Group
- Jubi
- Kaki Abu Legal Aid Institute
- Katane Support Group
- Komunitas Film Kupang
- KPKC Papua
- Labarik Lakon Community
- Legal Aid Institute (LBH), Banda Aceh
- Legal Aid Institute (LBH), Bandung
- Legal Aid Institute (LBH), Jakarta
- Legal Aid Institute (LBH), Papua
- Lembaga Pengkajian dan Pemberdayaan Masyarakat Adat (LP2MA)
- Papuan Women's Working Group (PWC)
- Para Para Buku, Papua
- Serikat Muda Anti Impunitas (SEMAI)
- Survivor of Human Rights Crime Solidarity (SKP-HAM), Palu, Sulawesi
- TAPOL, United Kingdom
- Teratai Hati Papua Foundation, Wamena, Indonesia
- The Coalition of Civil Society Organizations in Papua (KOMASI Papua)

- The Merauke AIDS Prevention Commission (KPA Merauke)
- Udeido Collective
- Universal Music Indonesia
- Watch Indonesia, Germany
- West Papua Netzwerk
- Yasanto Foundation, Merauke
- Yayasan Pusaka Bentala Rakyat (PUSAKA)

## Timor-Leste

- Asistencia Legal ba Feto no Labarik (ALFeLa)
- Asosiasaun Chega ba Ita ACbit
- Asosiasaun Chega! Ba Ita (ACbit/Chega! for Us Association), Timor-Leste
- Asosiasaun HAK
- Asosiasaun Halibur Defisiensia Rejiaun Oeste (AHDRO)
- Asosiasaun Unidade Feto ba Dezenvolvimentu (AUFD)
- Centro Comunidade Covalima (CCC)
- Coalition on Diversity and Action (CODIVA)
- Forum Komunikaun Ba Feto Timor Lorosa'e (FOKUPERS)
- Fundasaun Esperansa Enclave Oecusse (FEEO)
- Fundasaun Haburas Moris (FHM)
- Fundasaun Moris Foun (FMF)
- Hametin Asaun Dezenvolvimentu no Ekonomia Rural (HADEER)
- Hametin Demokrasi no Igualidade (HDI)
- Institutu Mata-Dalan Integradu (IMI)
- International Committee of The Red Cross (ICRC)
- Knua Haburan Comunidade (KHC)
- Kruz Vermelha Timor-Leste (CVTL)
- Mane Ho Visaun Foun (MHVF)
- Movimento Feto Foinsae Timor-Leste (MOFFE)
- National Working Group on Reparations (RWG)
- NGO Forum Timor- Leste (FONCTIL)
- Ombudsman of Human Rights and Justice (PDHJ)
- Pirlampu Womens Forum 1974-1999
- Presidente da Republica Timor Leste (PR)
- Psychosocial Recovery and Development in East Timor (PRADET)
- Raes Hadomi Timor Oan (RHTO)
- Rede Defensor Direitus Umanus; HR Defenders Network
- Rede Feto
- Rural Youth Action (RYA)
- Selo Horticultura Produsaun (SHP)
- Sentru ba Haburas Movimentu Direitus Umanus - Human Rights School Alumni
- Uma Da Paz
- Uma Pas Baucau (UPB)
- UNESCO
- United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women)
- United Nations Human Rights Advisory Unit



## Myanmar

*Due to safety and security concerns, we are withholding detailed partners list and projects.*

- Alin Thit
- Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP), Myanmar
- Association of Human Rights Defenders and Promoters (HRDP)
- Aung Clinic
- Burma Academy
- Burmese Women Union (BWU)
- Coup and Canvas
- Do Hlay
- Heroes Assistance Migrants (HAM)
- Irrawaddy Law School (ILS)
- Justice Movement for Community Innlay (JMC)
- Justice to Rights (J2R)
- Kachin Women Association Thailand (KWAT)
- Karen Human Rights Group (KHRG)
- Karen Women Organizations (KWO)
- Karen Women Peace Network (KWPN)
- Land in Our Hands (LIOH)
- Let's Do It (LDI)
- Myanmar Cultural Research Society
- Nyan Lynn Thit Analytica (NLTA)
- Progressive Voice Myanmar, Myanmar
- Purple Feminist Group (PFG)
- Shwe Phee Myay News Agency
- Sisters to Sister (S2S)
- Spring Revolution Interfaith Network (SRIN)
- Spring Revolution Myanmar Muslim Network (SRMMN)
- Ta'ang Students and Youth Union (TSYU)
- Tavoyan Women's Union (TWU)
- The Irrawaddy Law School (ILS)
- The Justice Movement For Community-Innlay (JMC-Innlay)
- The Regional Center for Social Science and Sustainable Development (RCSD), Chiang Mai, Thailand
- The Wings Institute (TWI)
- Towards
- Tri Star
- Union of Karenni State Youth (UKSY)
- Women Justice (WJ)
- Women's League of Burma (WLB)
- Ta'ang Women's Organization (TWO)
- Pa'O Women's Union (PWU)

## Bangladesh

- Liberation War Museum (LWM), Bangladesh
- SAVE (Social Action of Voluntary Efforts), Bangladesh
- South East Asia Junction (SEA Junction), Thailand

## 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

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

### Members

- Putu Oka Sukanta, writer and acupuncturist, 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 and Vermont
- Samsidar, human rights worker, Aceh

### 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
- 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
- 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

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- Indria Fernida, Regional Program Manager
- Citra Dwi Ayu, Finance Manager
- Putri Kanesia, Regional Advocacy Coordinator
- Ika Yuliana, Donor Relations and Fundraising Coordinator
- Aghniadi, Regional Communications Coordinator
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- Syarifah Nur Hidayah, Grant Administrator
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- Amalia Suri, Program Officer
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- Yani Chelsia, Finance and Administration Assistant
- Muhammad Ibra Ramadhan, Data and Administration Assistant
- Andy Liem, Finance Advisor
- Karen Campbell-Nelson, Institutional Learning and Gender Advisor
- Nicole Janisiewicz, Legal Advisor
- Nick Dobrijevich, Researcher

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- Mulki Makmun, Program Manager
- Emmanuella Kania Mamonto, Deputy Program Manager
- Sornica Ester Lily, Program Officer
- Raisa Widiastari, Program Officer

- Julinta Moreng, Program Assistant
- Rudi Kogoya, Program Assistant
- Kelana Wisnu, Program Associate
- Mustofa, Office Assistant

## Timor-Leste

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- Joviana Guterres, Program Manager
- Virginia Manuela Genoveva, Finance Manager
- Georgia Leyendekkers, Associate Program Manager
- Inocencio Xavier, Outreach Officer
- Leonardo Soares, Program Officer
- Carmelita Maria Antonia Amaral, Finance Officer
- Anastacio Madeira, Communications Officer
- Victoria Tomasias, Monitoring & Evaluation, Program Assistant
- Januario de Araujo, Finance and Admin Assistant
- Cezario Cesar da Costa Hornay, Youth Outreach Officer
- Amandina Maria Helena da Silva, Survivors Support and Project Officer
- Arminda Perreira Godinho, Youth Outreach Officer
- Danilo Abilio Soares do Rego, Logistics

## Myanmar

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- Moses, Program Coordinator
- De Dee, Finance Coordinator
- Mar Oo, Program Coordinator
- Chan Chan, Finance Assistant
- Aye Aye, HR and Grant Administrator
- Chit Min Lay, Lead Program Officer

- Zar Ti, Lead Program Officer
- Alarie, Program Officer
- Kyaw Lwin, Program Officer
- Grib, Liason Officer
- Jayme, Information Management Officer

## Bangladesh

- Pia Conradsen, Program Associate
- Luthfunnahar Shancyi, Program Coordinator
- Nasrin Akter, Program Officer
- Shakila Yesmin, Program Officer
- Sumaiya Bashar, Program Assistant
- Mizanur Rahman, Training Facilitator
- Abu Talha, Training Facilitator
- Azharul Islam, Finance and Admin Officer

## Volunteers & Interns

- Abu Toyub, Bangladesh
- Aurthy Nobeneeta, Bangladesh
- Gibraltar Muhammad, Indonesia
- Kate Alonso, Regional
- Lamia Afroj Riha, Bangladesh
- Nur Wahid, Indonesia
- Rachel Manson, Regional
- Shamima, Bangladesh
- Showkutara, Bangladesh
- Timothy Massie, Regional
- Yeasin Arafat, Bangladesh
- Zia Uddin, Bangladesh

## Consultants

- Agah Nugraha Muharam, Indonesia
- Alam Surya Anggara, Indonesia
- Alicia Lilo, Solomon Islands
- Anung Sasongko, Indonesia
- Arman Bhuiyan, Bangladesh
- Armin Septiexan, Indonesia
- Ati Nurbaiti, Indonesia
- Atikah Nuraini, Indonesia
- Bendrich Oetanu, Indonesia
- Bolu Malu Group, Indonesia
- Crispianus Sebleku, Indonesia
- Diah Ari Tapaningtyas, Indonesia

- Emareen, Indonesia
- Fikri Hemas Pratama, Indonesia
- Frengki Lollo, Indonesia
- Hadi Aldiansa, Indonesia
- Hanan Amirah, Indonesia
- Hendra Saputra, Indonesia
- Ignatia Dyahapsari, Indonesia
- Ignatius Ade Gunawan, Indonesia
- Ika Vantiani, Indonesia
- Ikhana Indah, Indonesia
- Indah Nurmasari, Indonesia
- Indira Larin Natasha, Indonesia
- Irindhita Laras Putri, Indonesia
- Janu Wibowo, Indonesia
- Jorguino Savio, Timor-Leste
- Kieran Dwyer
- Kornkanok Khumta (Pup), Thailand
- Kurniati Shinta Dewi, Indonesia
- La Tessa Dwadiandra, Indonesia
- Madeline Feledy, Australia
- Manuel Alberto Maia, Indonesia
- Marsen Sinaga, Indonesia
- Matt Easton
- Megan Hirst
- Melania Kirihio
- Michael Yan Devis, Indonesia
- Muhammad Rais, Indonesia
- Nabila Tauhida, Indonesia
- Nadhifatun Nurrur Rahma
- Nidaa Irbah, Indonesia
- Nieke Jahja, Indonesia
- Perdana Putri Roswaldy, USA
- Pilgrim Archive
- Pizuar Hossain, Bangladesh
- Pujo Nugroho, Indonesia
- Rachel Arinii, Indonesia
- Ruby Evans, USA
- Sairam Salim, Indonesia
- Sarah Whitmore, Regional
- Sarmento Vargas, Timor-Leste
- Serlina Sembel, Indonesia
- Sorang Saragih, Indonesia
- Tanruthai Thanrut, Thailand
- Tati Krisnawaty, Indonesia
- Teresa Birks, Indonesia
- Titiso Kour-ara, Timor-Leste
- Vikram Sombu, Indonesia




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