

Enforcement of Human Rights Decisions REDRESS

Project Overview:

- A major part of REDRESS' work includes the filing of complaints of torture / ill-treatment on behalf of victims before human rights bodies, such as the **UN Human Rights Committee** and the **African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights**.¹ We have received a number of positive decisions in our cases, both before the Human Rights Committee as well as the African Commission, pertaining to torture committed in a range of countries, including Sri Lanka, Nepal, Sudan, Egypt, Zimbabwe and Uzbekistan. Those decisions request the State parties to take a variety of measures of reparation so as to remedy the violations, including carrying out an investigation, providing compensation and rehabilitation to victim(s), reforming relevant legislation etc. A major challenge is now the implementation of those decisions in the countries concerned, and ensuring that the victims we are representing receive reparation as requested by the relevant mechanism. None of the countries above has implemented any of the decisions, nor have the authorities indicated in detail what steps they will take to implement. The project would preferably focus on cases from Sudan, Sri Lanka, Uzbekistan, Zimbabwe, and some work may be carried out in relation to Nepal or Egypt.
- The project would help REDRESS in its work towards implementation focusing on country-specific research and assistance to develop advocacy strategies, connected with decisions REDRESS has received from the UN Human Rights Committee and African Commission.

Project Output:

- The students would draft country studies on implementation which would include: an examination of "implementation frameworks" in different countries of interest to REDRESS (what legal status do decisions of African Commission/ Human Rights Committee have in the relevant country? Which authorities are in charge of implementation? What arrangements exist to engage with regional/ international human rights mechanisms? What is the track-record when it comes to implementation of decisions and concluding observations? What are the reasons invoked for a failure to implement?)
- The country studies would also be used to help inform a larger report produced by REDRESS on implementation strategies from a litigants' perspective. The studies

¹ For an overview of our litigation at the international level see <http://www.redress.org/international-jurisdictions/international-jurisdictions2>

would form part of REDRESS' broader advocacy efforts to ensure implementation in our cases.

Project Outline:

Introductory Phase (November)

- Assignment of tasks between students (including identification and agreement of countries per student)
- Preliminary briefing and sharing of baseline materials and research framework and methodology for undertaking country-specific research
- By the end of November, submit a draft methodology for country-specific research (4 pages, one per country) and a literature review on implementation (5 pages).
- Develop a draft ethical consent form (if required)

Phase 1: (December - February)

- Carrying out country-specific research on the basis of the research framework provided by REDRESS
- Submission of draft country studies (end of January 2017) for review by REDRESS. Each country study will be in the region of 5-7 pages.
- Submission of final country studies (end of February 2018)

Phase 2: (March– 30 June) Assignment of country-specific advocacy targets

- Finalise project report (25-30 pages), which will consist of the country studies (see phase 1) and advocacy strategies, together with 5 pages of introduction and methodology. The first draft should be submitted to Redress for review by 30 April 2018.
- Development of draft advocacy strategy and materials: submit to REDRESS for review
- Draft of advocacy outputs to be used by REDRESS, which will be country specific and may consist of open letters to government officials; briefing papers for members of parliament, national human rights commissions etc; op-eds and media campaign materials (such as Q & As; case profiles; interviews with clients etc); briefings for country focussed implementation meetings at regional / international level; follow-up submissions on implementation to national courts and/or regional/international bodies)

Project Bibliography:

- REDRESS case submissions (to be tailored and divided up amongst students): <http://www.redress.org/international-jurisdictions/international-jurisdictions2>
- REDRESS report on reparations in the African human rights system: <http://www.redress.org/downloads/publications/1310reaching-for-justicefinal.pdf>

- REDRESS et al joint submission to the UN on the follow up procedure for views: [http://www.redress.org/downloads/publications/Jointsubmission TRIAL REDRESS CCPRCenter final.pdf](http://www.redress.org/downloads/publications/Jointsubmission_TRIAL_REDRESS_CCPRCenter_final.pdf)