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ANNUAL REPORT 2022

Supporting the human rights community
with their information needs since 1982

Human rights defenders need evidence, law and research to advocate justice and accountability.

We develop tools and strategies that make this **information** accessible.

HURIDOCS is an NGO that helps human rights groups gather, organise and use information to create positive change in the world.

INSIDE THIS REPORT

HURIDOCS in 2022
OUR FOCUS

At HURIDOCS, our aim is to help the human rights community use the power of information to change the world for the better. We work with various human rights and justice actors on a number of intersectional themes while we support organisations in every region of the world.
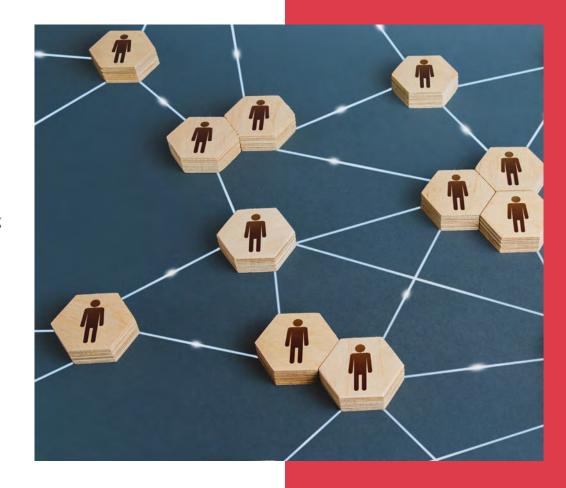
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INTRODUCTION

2022 unfolded as HURIDOCS' 40th anniversary year, symbolising our remarkable evolution and growth. However, with this milestone came a heightened challenge— the responsibility to support partners responding to increasing human rights emergencies around the world and to keep up to speed with ongoing technological developments and threats.

For four decades, HURIDOCS has been at the forefront of human rights documentation and information technology, providing invaluable tools, knowledge, and support to human rights defenders, activists and organisations around the world. Our journey began with a vision of human rights leaders to empower those fighting for justice, equality, and respect for human dignity. This became a reality in 1982 when Martin Ennals spearheaded the inaugural conference that led to the founding of the Human Rights International Documentation System.

Over the years, HURIDOCS has grown and evolved, embracing technological advancements and innovative approaches to address the ever-changing landscape of human rights documentation and information management. It is only by working in collaboration with partners around the world, that we can truly strive for justice and accountability.

2022 was marked by an array of global challenges, none more poignant than the ongoing war in Ukraine. The war inflicts suffering to innocent civilians and serves as a grim reminder, regardless of the geographical location, of the fragility of human rights and the urge to protect them amidst conflict.

HURIDOCS was steadfast in supporting local human rights defenders in their efforts to document abuse. Collaborative partnerships and rapid response strategies were key to equip those in the field with secure and reliable tools to seek accountability for human rights atrocities on the international stage.

40 years of pioneering human rights information through partnerships and technology

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While the situation in Ukraine demanded immediate action, our work in other regions continued firmly. We helped human rights organisations, defenders and activists around the world promote human rights and those affected by grave violations. Among them, we co-designed an oral memorialisation database of the Syrian conflict, provided a safe platform to document human rights violations to migrants and refugees in Mexico, supported the creation of a one-of-a-kind public database of the human rights violations in the North Korean penal system, and co-built a human rights complaints system for the National Human Rights Commission in Burkina Faso.

We remained committed to supporting their efforts for justice and accountability, standing in solidarity with those seeking to protect and promote human rights from backstage, ensuring their identities and documentation efforts are secured and protected.

Simultaneously, in 2022 we continued with our relentless pursuit of innovative solutions for human rights documentation and advocacy initiatives. Throughout the year, we enhanced our technology tools, equipping defenders with our state-of-the-art platform Uwazi for data collection, management, analysis, and collaboration. Our specialised team strengthened internal capacities and knowledge-sharing, demonstrating HURIDOCS' commitment to research, specialisation and innovation.

We built a new tool called Preserve and enhanced Uwazi's interoperability and offline capabilities by integrating it into Tella. Uwazi was certified as a Digital Public Good by the Digital Public Goods Alliance and classified as a safe tool with a high level of security by an independent audit company. These recognitions only push us further in our mission to reach more individuals and organisations in need of support.

As we celebrate our 40th anniversary, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to our donors, partners, and allies. Your support has been instrumental in driving our impact and creating meaningful change in the world. Without your trust and dedication, HURIDOCS would not have been able to touch the lives of countless organisations and individuals striving for a world where human rights are universally respected and upheld.

We remain committed to our vision of a world where human rights are protected, and voices of the marginalised are heard, as we work with the challenges and opportunities ahead. The journey towards a just and equitable world is an enduring one, but with your continued support, HURIDOCS will persist in empowering human rights defenders globally to fight against human rights abuses, misinformation, censorship, illegal shutdowns, impunity and tyranny.
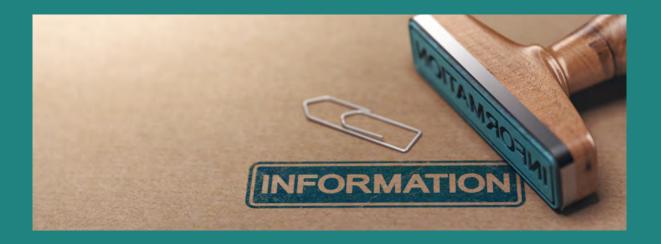
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PROGRAMMES AND PARTNERSHIPS

During the course of 2022, our Programmes Team provided strategic and technical support to several new partners and we undertook 86 projects with 82 partners and worked actively with them in 86 countries.

HURIDOCS continues its dedication to existing partners by sustaining various ongoing projects and databases. Many of our partners have adopted our flagship tool, Uwazi, an open-source web-based solution developed by our tech team for human rights defenders. Uwazi is designed to efficiently manage, organise, visualise, share, and safeguard data.

Our work and support encompass a wide range of activities, including the development of both private and public databases. These databases serve purposes such as monitoring and documenting human rights violations, aiding in case management, gathering collective memories and evidence for transitional justice, and establishing comprehensive repositories of human rights information.

Human rights information
DATABASES AND COLLECTIONS

The collections mentioned here only tell half the story. Many of our partners operate in shrinking civic space while working within repressive regions, and because of the themes they focus on, their work often requires a high level of security and privacy.

We have supported these partners to develop documentation methods and customise tools to gather qualitative, quantitative and anecdotal information to analyse trends and patterns. We also assisted them to streamline their information models and documentation systems which allows them to work more effectively and efficiently.

By having a more streamlined approach to managing human rights information, violations, cases and memories, human rights organisations are able to do so much more for the communities they serve. Credible and accessible information aids our partners to raise awareness of critical human rights issues, secure redress for victims of violations, strengthen accountability processes, build capacity, and foster collaboration within the broader human rights community.

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Programmes and partnerships
OUR REGIONAL FOCUS

Map showing 86 projects supported across 5 regions

We supported 86 projects and 82 partners during 2022

Africa
7 projects
7 partners

Asia-Pacific
20 projects
18 partners

International, Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia
32 projects
32 partners

Latin America
20 projects
18 partners

Middle East and North Africa
7 projects
7 partners

Overview of countries, projects and partners

5	86	86	82	77
Regions worked in	Countries worked in	Projects completed	Partners supported	Training sessions held

Work streams

Monitor and track violations
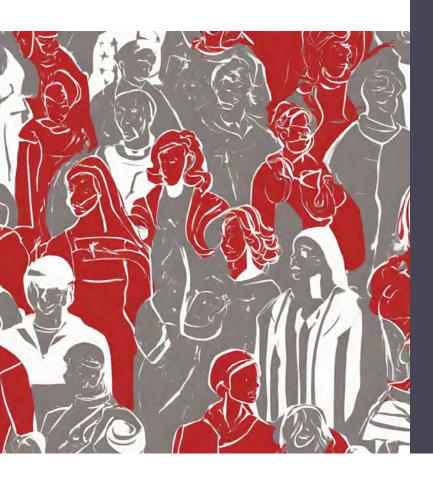
Collective memories and evidence

Case / complaints management

Human rights information libraries

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Project highlights

During 2022, we have supported 86 projects in collaboration with 82 partner organisations. Here we highlight some of the inspiring projects which are safe to talk about. Working on human rights can be sensitive, and to reduce security and other risks, we cannot mention every project and partnership.

AFRICA
Burkina Faso

COMMISSION NATIONALE DES DROITS DE L'HOMME BURKINA FASO (CNDH)
Human rights complaints management system

In recent years, the Sahel region has experienced a rise in political instability, armed group attacks on civilians, and a general deterioration in security and human rights. Burkina Faso, in particular, faces challenges with non-state armed groups controlling many regions, leading to an urgent need for a secure database system to track and analyse human rights complaints.

In a joint effort to seek accountability and justice, the National Human Rights Commission of Burkina Faso (CNDH) embarked on enhancing its complaints management system. Collaborating with the American Bar Association's Rule of Law Initiative (ABAROLI), HURIDOCS supported CNDH in building a robust database system using Uwazi, ensuring secure storage, tracking, and analysis of human rights complaints.

The successful implementation of an analysis page and public submission form, identified during the discovery phase, marks a significant advancement in their mission.

It is envisaged that the HURIDOCS team will conduct a mission to Burkina Faso, to engage with the Commission and providing essential training for staff members. This close cooperation aims to strengthen human rights protection and access to justice in the country, despite the challenging security landscape.

> *"We are amazed by the quality of the platform because it will allow us to collect and store our data in a secure way. This platform will be at the heart of the CNDH's action."*
> *— Touwendenda Zongo,*
> *Deputy Rapporteur of the CNDH*

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ASIA PACIFIC
North Korea

KOREA FUTURE

North Korean Prison Database

North Korea's regime and extreme isolation raise serious concerns about human rights violations within the nation. Particularly within its penal system, which is used by the ruling Workers' Party of Korea to oppress citizens deemed as political threats.

Korea Future, the first non-governmental organisation (NGO) to document human rights violations and international crimes in North Korea's penal system, launched the **North Korean Prison Database** in March 2022.

Using Uwazi, this public database contains crime-based evidence, providing access to over 5,000 documented human rights violations against 785 detainees to date.

> "The fact that Uwazi is an open source, and therefore transparent, and also a secure platform dedicated to human rights work is what attracted us. HURIDOCS' human rights focus ensures that they understand and are open to understanding further the different contexts, the needs and the use cases of human rights defenders and groups like ourselves."
> — *Hae Ju Kang,*
> *Co-director of Korea Future*

HURIDOCS supported Korea Future in defining the structure, instruments and visuals for the vast quantity and variety of evidence.

Testimonies from survivors and the diaspora were crucial in building satellite images and 3D models of two prisons in North Korea, where improvements in the functionalities of the platform were made to highlight the evidence appropriately.

The versatile and accessible database details crime-based evidence of penal violations containing testimonies of victims and survivors, witnesses and perpetrators.

This extensive database allows stakeholders to challenge impunity and international crimes, promoting transparency and accountability for human rights violations in North Korea's penal system.

The database is available in Korean and English to ensure wider access to the truth.

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LATIN AMERICA
Mexico

▣ REDODEM

Documenting human rights violations against migrants and refugees in Mexico

Mexico is a significant transit point or destination for refugees, and internally displaced persons (IDPs) seeking refuge and better opportunities. Amidst this complex situation, human rights violations by criminal organisations and authorities pose serious threats, making the journey dangerous for those in search of a safer life.

In the face of such difficulties, La Red de Documentación de las Organizaciones Defensoras de Migrantes (REDODEM), a network of 24 civil organisations, advocates for the rights and dignity of migrants through the generation of essential documentation and research, denouncing these violations.

In 2022, the network adopted Uwazi as an internal database and monitoring tool. This implementation enabled real-time data analysis, empowering their efforts to address the issues faced by vulnerable populations. Despite some initial challenges, the commitment of users and unwavering civil society support have strengthened REDODEM's impact and now Uwazi lies at the core of the network's work. REDODEM is better equipped to drive positive change, protect individuals from rights violations, and promote a more just and safer approach to human mobility in Mexico.

> "This software has allowed us to transition to a new work model. This work not only allows us to collect data that can be analysed and find statistics, but it also helps us manage the information. It allows us to network, and be better in communication with the population we serve.
>
> Now we can know and identify the different needs they have to provide them with better care and in addition, we can better make visible and explain the different ways in which violence and human rights violations are exercised against the population in human mobility."
>
> **— Sara López Cerón,**
> **Registration, Documentation & Analysis Coordinator of REDODEM**

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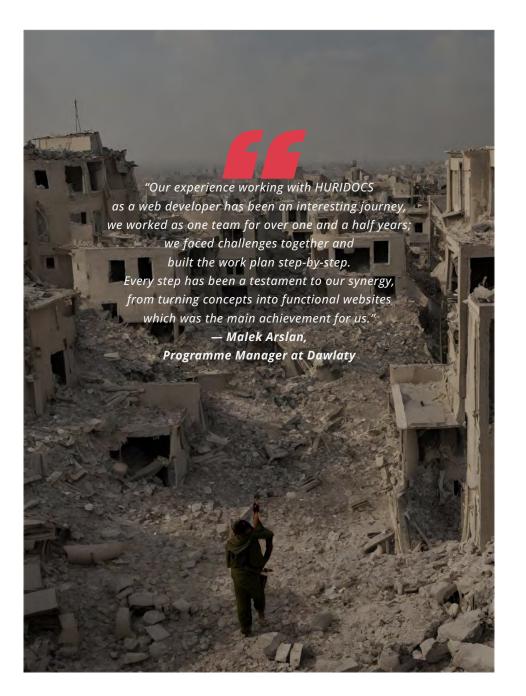# MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA
Syria

DAWLATY

Syrian Oral History Archive (SOHA)

The political instability and ongoing conflicts in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, pose significant challenges in addressing persistent human rights violations. Since March 2011, Syria has witnessed crimes against humanity, including enforced disappearance, arbitrary detention, extrajudicial execution, and torture.

In 2016, the Syrian NGO Dawlaty and its partners established the **Syrian Oral History Archive** (SOHA). Since then, they have collected more than 400 testimonies under two collections: experiences of women relatives of the missing, disappeared, and detained, and experiences of youth between 18 and 24 years. These testimonies were gathered through field interviews of affected narrators who volunteered to provide their accounts.

To make the SOHA programme accessible and influential, Dawlaty developed an online platform in with the support of HURIDOCS, utilising Uwazi for secure digital access to the collections. Supported by partnerships with community groups, civil society organisations, and cultural actors, the SOHA project aims to challenge prevailing narratives and prioritise and amplify marginalised voices. By providing controlled access to lived experiences of women and youth, SOHA can significantly contribute to future transitional justice efforts, focusing on the rights of victims and their families.

"Our experience working with HURIDOCS as a web developer has been an interesting journey, we worked as one team for over one and a half years; we faced challenges together and built the work plan step-by-step. Every step has been a testament to our synergy, from turning concepts into functional websites which was the main achievement for us."
— *Malek Arslan,*
Programme Manager at Dawlaty

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EASTERN EUROPE & CENTRAL ASIA
Ukraine

🏢 CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS IN UKRAINE
Urgent support for documentation in Ukraine

Since the start of the full-blown invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, HURIDOCS has deployed considerable efforts, providing emergency support and technologies to local civil society organisations and human rights defenders documenting war crimes to strengthen accountability and justice initiatives.

We support numerous Ukrainian actors, established NGOs, civil society organisations and networks.

These activities fulfilled three primary objectives: fortifying accountability for war crimes and grave human rights violations, diversifying event documentation through technology adoption, and strengthening safety for information collectors and collected data.

Tailored training and consultations empowered around 15 human rights defenders and groups, resulting in secure databases housing over 20GB of critical information.

In order to support, sustain and protect the very large collections of information derived from this context, HURIDOCS has hardened and scaled its back-end systems to preserve large volumes of information.

In conjunction with closed-source data and primary information, open-source digital evidence comes from a vast array of publicly available satellite imagery, videos and photographs, including material uploaded to the Internet from smartphones and content posted to websites and social media platforms.

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EUROPE
United Kingdom

🏢 **UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD'S DEATH PENALTY UNIT**
Mapping foreign nationals on death row

The **Mapping Death Row Database**, led by the University of Oxford's Death Penalty Research Unit and supported by human rights NGOs like The Death Penalty Project, Eleos Justice, Harm Reduction International, Justice Project Pakistan, Project 39a, and ADPAN, provides info on foreign nationals facing capital punishment in Asia and the Middle East. It includes records of those executed or on death row, aiding civil society in their efforts.

Interactive maps display socio-demographic, jurisdictional, and offense data for retentionist countries, including crime types, nationalities, gender, occupation, and status of foreign nationals sentenced to death. With over 1,200 cases, it's a valuable resource on this issue.

> "We were looking for someone to help us develop a human rights-based interactive website and HURIDOCS had all the right expertise and experience, plus a passion for the project. HURIDOCS worked with us over several years and was able to provide many helpful ideas as the project evolved and had a beautiful result."
> — Jocelyn Hutton,
> Research Officer, Death Penalty Research Unit,
> University of Oxford

INTERNATIONAL
Switzerland

🏢 **UNITED NATIONS INSTITUTE FOR DISARMAMENT RESEARCH**
Cyber Policy Portal Database

The United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) plays an important role in advancing multilateral arms control and disarmament through dialogue facilitation, and it also conducts independent research on international security issues.

To address international cyber security challenges, HURIDOCS supported UNIDIR to create the **Cyber Policy Portal Database.** This Uwazi-based document collection offers direct access to more than 1,000 laws, policies, and directives referenced on state and intergovernmental organisations' profiles. The database provides various parameters, including custom pages, document classification, and optical character recogniton (OCR) capabilities.

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Strengthening partnerships and fostering growth
OUR PROGRAMMES TEAM

During the course of 2022, the Programmes Team continued to strengthen its existing partnerships, while concurrently building new relationships with a number of local and international organisations.

To support HURIDOCS' growth, we have made some shifts in our organisational structure to facilitate leadership sharing. Nancy Yu, our former Director of Programmes, has been appointed as the Deputy Executive Director, effective from October 2022.

As a result of this change in the organisational structure in October, the Programmes Team was led by two Co-Directors: Lauren L. Finch and Matel Sow. Lauren and Matel jointly took on the roles of directing and supporting HURIDOCS' regional programmes in Latin America, Africa, Middle East and North Africa, Asia Pacific, Europe and Central Asia, and our International portfolio.

In 2022, Bono Olgado, Programme Manager for the Asia Pacific region, transitioned to the role of Documentalist, a position previously held by Bert Verstappen. Natasha Todi, who previously held the position of Programme Officer was appointed as the new Programme Manager of the Asia Pacific team.

The reorganisation of the team allows us to sustain our partnerships by creating supportive roles that will increase our abilities, while providing space for growth and avoiding burnout.

Tech innovation and development
TECHNOLOGY TEAM

In 2022, HURIDOCS continued its mission to empower human rights defenders with advanced technological solutions. The Tech Team played a pivotal role in achieving these objectives through the consolidation of team structures, emphasising specialisation, research, and innovation. This strategic shift involved a clear separation of responsibilities within the tech team, fostering expertise and efficiency in distinct areas of engineering, thereby reinforcing our commitment to advancing human rights through technology.

Front-end Team

The Front-end Team undertook a major project to revamp the entire architecture, components, and user experience (UX) patterns of **Uwazi.** The objective is to create a faster, more efficient UX with improved workflows. This included comprehensive research and selection of tools such as Tailwind CSS, Flowvbite, Atoms, and Cypress E2E. The team is committed to replacing legacy user interfaces (UIs) with the new design throughout 2023. Moreover, a strong emphasis was placed on search engine optimisation (SEO) and accessibility, with automated checks integrated into our continuous integration (CI) pipeline.

Back-end Team

The Back-end Team focused on a critical task: the redesign and implementation of the new data layer, which serves as the foundation of our entire application. Extensive research into graph databases (Arango, Orient, Neo4J) was conducted to assess potential benefits. Ultimately, it was determined that our current stack could fully meet our requirements. In 2022, the Back-end Team primarily concentrated on implementing this new data layer.

Machine Learning Team

The Machine Learning Team continued its work on data labelling and model training for document segmentation and metadata extraction. These new models were seamlessly integrated into Uwazi, with the first minimum viable product (MVP) version of metadata extraction deployed in 2022. Further iterations are planned for 2023.

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Feature maintenance and enhancements

Due to the emphasis on research and revamping, the Back-end and Front-end Teams dedicated substantial efforts to maintaining and improving existing features. In 2022, notable achievements included information extraction, enhancements to media and image fields, improved map visualisation libraries, and refinements to data import/export and localisation.

Infrastructure and reliability

Our Infrastructure and Reliability Team continued to enhance our infrastructure's scalability, performance, and cost-efficiency. Key accomplishments included the integration of S3 storage, resulting in significant cost reductions. Security remained a high priority, with a focus on comprehensive firewalling, monitoring, and system hardening.

Preserve - Capturing and archiving digital evidence

The year 2022 saw the introduction of Preserve, a new tool designed for capturing and archiving digital content from websites, social media networks and communication platforms into Uwazi. With Preserve, digital evidence is archived with accompanying key metadata to ensure evidentiary value by establishing and demonstrating authenticity and chain of custody.

Extensive research was conducted to ensure compliance with standards for chain of custody and timestamp validation. Preserve consists of three components: a browser plug-in for Firefox and Chrome, a dedicated back-end service, and integration scripts that connect and import preserved data to Uwazi for end-user consumption.

Sunsetting and migration of OpenEvSys

During 2022, HURIDOCS successfully completed the sunsetting and migration of OpenEvSys to Uwazi. Approximately 20 OpenEvSys databases were converted and migrated to their Uwazi equivalents, and all legacy services were decommissioned.

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Infrastructure and security
SECURITY WORKING GROUP

The Security Working Group was initiated in 2021 with the goal of bringing together key staff members within the organisation to set the priorities and roadmap for strengthening HURIDOCS organisational security.

The working group currently consists of the Security Lead, Chief Technology Officer and Infrastructure Engineer. In 2022, the group identified and addressed several major organisational security needs and areas that needed improvement.

First, the team focused on strengthening the security of HURIDOCS' core infrastructure. This entailed developing and implementing policies and tools to limit the attack surface.

In addition, the team streamlined the management of HURIDOCS working infrastructure. It also explored other options to strengthen its infrastructure security, which required research, liaising with potential partners and preliminary testing of tools and solutions.

A second major direction was strengthening the digital security capacity of our staff, interns and consultants by developing and implementing a mandatory digital security onboarding process for new employees. The Security Lead has also provided regular individual consultations on best digital security practices and tools for the staff that needed support.

Finally, the group worked on revising and improving organisational and digital security documentation. This included the revision of HURIDOCS' Security Policy, as well as the revision and refinement of the organisation's internal security protocols.

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UWAZI highlights

INNOVATION

Uwazi was **recognised as a finalist** in the AI and data category of Fast Company's 2022 World-Changing Ideas Awards, which honours the innovative ways businesses and organisations are finding solutions for the biggest challenges of our time. This year, they received more than 3,000 nominations and HURIDOCS is honoured to be among those who made the final list. In the AI and data category, the winners, finalists and honourees harness the power of data, machine learning, or artificial intelligence to understand the world and empower change.

DIGITAL PUBLIC GOOD

Uwazi was recognised as a **Digital Public Good** (DPG) by the Digital Public Goods Alliance, a multi-stakeholder initiative endorsed by the UN Secretary-General which promotes digital public goods to create a more equitable world and to attain the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Uwazi's addition to the list recognises the more than 150 organisations around the world that depend on Uwazi for their fight for justice and accountability and endorses the principles of openness, participation and accessibility.

SECURITY

An **independent security audit** performed by Recurity Labs, which specialises in IT security consulting services, found Uwazi has a high level of security. The assessment included general application security testing as well as an investigation to find out if there are instances of information leakage. This was done according to the OWASP list of top 10 and the SANS list of top 25 vulnerabilities and security risks. The security audit found that Uwazi has a high level of security. The evaluation, which included manual and automated testing, identified four types of minor vulnerabilities which have since been addressed and patched to prevent exploitation.

INTEROPERABILITY

This year our commitment to empower frontline actors with innovative tools for impactful human rights work continued with the integration of Uwazi into the **mobile app Tella**. Addressing the pressing needs of human rights defenders, investigators, and journalists in challenging environments, HURIDOCS teamed up with NGO Horizontal to allow users to connect to Uwazi databases from within Tella. This mobile app guarantees safety, protection, and verification for those documenting human rights violations in contexts where devices can be confiscated, searched or destroyed.

Operating in precarious environments where devices are compromised can result in incomplete evidence or even data loss. By integrating Uwazi into Tella, users are able to collect and secure comprehensive evidence even when offline, and allows the captured data to be sent to the data server once an internet connection is available. Tella's encrypted storage, verification mode, and compatibility with servers such as Open Data Kit, Tella WEB, and Uwazi enable users to work effectively in remote areas or with limited or no connectivity.

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Co-creation of community resources
RESEARCH AND COLLABORATION

In 2022, HURIDOCS continued having an active role in collaborative research with other organisations in human rights documentation, with practical outcomes and community resources that arose from these initiatives, shedding light on the evolving landscape of human rights documentation.

The Engine Room partnered with the Public International Law & Policy Group (PILPG) and HURIDOCS to embark on a **comprehensive exploration** of technology's role in human rights documentation. The project's outputs were two research reports and an online resource centre.
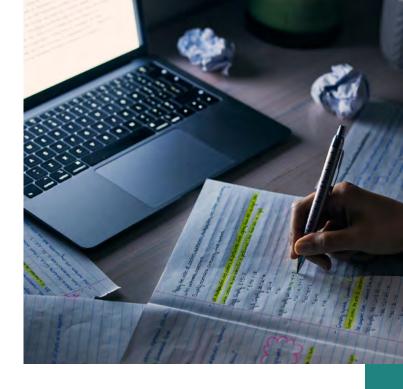
Human rights documentation by civil society: Technological needs, challenges and workflow
In 2019, The Engine Room, PILPG and HURIDOCS conducted research into how civil society is using technology tools for human rights documentation. PILPG conducted a needs assessment to identify specific technology requirements. The **research report** summarises key findings from civil society organisations, support entities, experts, and tool

developers, highlighting challenges like resource constraints, technical capacity gaps, security concerns, and varying data literacy levels. It emphasises diverse documentation workflows, the importance of technology and legal understanding, and the potential for further dialogue. These findings can guide the development of tailored technological solutions for human rights documentation.

Tech tools for human rights documentation: A snapshot of the landscape
In continuation of the research, the three partners developed a **tool-focused report** investigating specific tools and tool development in the human rights documentation space. It presents findings from explorations of some of the tools currently in use, and from interviews with eight tool authors. This report was written specifically for civil society organisations looking for tech tools to support their documentation work, tool developers working in the human rights documentation space, and funders and donors looking for insight into tool development for human rights documentation by civil society.'

'Tech tools for human rights documentation: Online resource'
The third output of this research effort was an **online resource** that includes insights and practical guidance stemming from our exploration of the technological needs and challenges faced by civil society organisations engaged in human rights documentation. Throughout the research, a strong interest was observed in knowledge exchange, learning, and collaboration within the sector, with a special focus on civil society organisations, tool developers immersed in the human rights documentation space, transitional justice experts, and funders and donors.

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Online course on human rights documentation

Totem is an online platform that helps journalists and activists use digital security and privacy tools and tactics more effectively in their work. In 2022, Totem developed an **online course** on 'Human Rights Documentation' where participants can learn about the stages of documentation, key considerations, and the potential outcomes of community-led human rights documentation.

The course emphasises the importance of using effective documentation to address human rights violations, hold perpetrators accountable, and preserve collective memories for the present and future. Experts, trainers, and online education specialists from various organisations collaborated during a workshop to co-create the course content, with contributions from HURIDOCS, WITNESS, and Horizontal.

Regional research on human rights documentation practices

During the course of 2022, the Programmes Team led various research initiatives in specific regional contexts. Our teams used various methodologies to investigate the human rights documentation landscape in the Africa, Asia Pacific and Latin America regions.

The overarching goal of the research was to assess our engagement with partners on the continent and its alignment with current realities. The regional research included a mapping exercise of the major actors, an assessment of documentation goals and tools employed as well as the identification of gaps and challenges related to documentation work.

HURIDOCS' research identified emerging needs around human rights documentation and the potential interventions that our team can assist with to support human rights defenders.

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Nobel Peace Prize
AWARDS

HURIDOCS Board member and her team won Nobel Peace Prize and Right Livelihood Award

We are exceptionally proud of HURIDOCS Board member Oleksandra Matviichuk and her team at the **Center for Civil Liberties** (CCL) who won the **Nobel Peace Prize 2022**. Oleksandra and the CCL are recognised for their decade-long work in striving to achieve a full democratic transition in Ukraine and ensuring justice, including accountability for war crimes during Russia's aggression. In addition to the Nobel Peace Prize, Oleksandra and the CCL were also recipients of the 2022 Right Livelihood Award that recognises their commitment to building democratic institutions in Ukraine.

"

"We wholeheartedly congratulate Oleksandra and the Center for Civil Liberties on these well-deserved honours, which we hope help ensure sustained support of all kinds for their indispensable voices and efforts in Ukraine. As a Board member and a partner to HURIDOCS, Oleksandra exemplifies human rights defenders' strength, adaptability, and perseverance and it is a privilege to learn from her.
For the HURIDOCS team, it is a great honour to help CCL and more than 150 other organisations more efficiently and securely document human rights abuses. The stories, documents, and data they collect are vital to justice and accountability."
–Lisa Reinsberg,
Chair, HURIDOCS Board

"Common people have a much greater impact than they can even imagine"
–Oleksandra Matviichuk,
Member, HURIDOCS Board

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Prix Martin Ennals 2022

Martin Ennals Award
RECOGNISING DEFENDERS

The 2022 Martin Ennals Laureates dedicated their lives to human rights advocacy in Vietnam, Burkina Faso and Bahrain

The **Martin Ennals Award for Human Rights Defenders** is given to people who have made extraordinary contributions to human rights and are consequently under threat. HURIDOCS is a longtime jury member of this initiative that helps to mobilise support for the finalists and enhance their protection.

This award is named after Martin Ennals (1927-1991), a human rights activist who served as the first Secretary General of Amnesty International and co-founded HURIDOCS, as well as ARTICLE 19 and International Alert.

We salute the 2022 Martin Ennals Laureates:

Pham Doan Trang (Vietnam)
A leading journalist and democracy advocate, who was arrested in 2020 and received a nine-year prison sentence for her courageous efforts to raise awareness about human rights and advocate for freedom of speech and access to information.

Dr. Daouda Diallo (Burkina Faso)
A brave pharmacist and human rights activist, who fearlessly documents rights abuses amid conflicts involving government forces, paramilitary groups, and Islamist factions, and who continues to face serious life threats.

Abdul-Hadi Al-Khawaja (Bahrain)
A prominent Gulf human rights figure, who dedicated years to advocating for democratic reform during the Arab Spring, and who was tragically imprisoned in 2011, marking 2022 as his 11th year behind bars.

Dr. Daouda Diallo
Burkina Faso

Pham Doan Trang
Vietnam

Abdul-Hadi Al-Khawaja
Bahrain

2022 EVENTS

We have participated in a number of private and public events during the course of the year. Some of these events include RightsCon 2022, the Annual Conference of the Geneva Human Rights Platform and the Nonprofit Software Development Summit.

UWAZI DEMO SESSIONS CO-HOSTED WITH PILPG AND THE ENGINE ROOM
In February 2022, HURIDOCS, PILPG and The Engine Room hosted **five Uwazi demo sessions**, presented in French, Spanish, Arabic and twice in English. The demo sessions were presented online and covered Uwazi's essential features and integration with Tella, an open source mobile application for data collection, developed by Horizontal.

RIGHTSCON 2022
In June 2022, HURIDOCS co-hosted **four sessions** at RightsCon, the world's largest human rights and technology summit. The first was a community lab to address gaps in accessible human rights documentation; next was a workshop to develop a comprehensive approach to the security challenges and potential solutions in human rights documentation, and thirdly we hosted a **tech demo** on the integration of Tella and Uwazi with our friends at Horizontal. Finally, HURIDOCS hosted a **panel** on 'Databases as memory objects' and the emergence of databases not only as a central documentation tool and information infrastructure in human rights work, but also as a memory object.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE GENEVA HUMAN RIGHTS PLATFORM
In October, Lisa Reinsberg (Chair of the HURIDOCS board), and Yolanda Booyzen (Communications Coordinator) attended the **Annual Conference** of the Geneva Human Rights Platform, hosted by the Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights. Among other 13 key organisations, HURIDOCS contributed expertise in an **Expert Roundtable** on demystifying digital human rights tracking tools and databases, engaging with international accountability bodies, governments, tool developers and other relevant stakeholders to assess the implications of digital connectivity on the advancement of human rights.

TICTeC LABS CIVIC TECH SURGERY
The nonprofit mySociety hosted six Civic Tech Surgeries to diagnose, dissect and address civic tech dilemmas and unlock impact. In October 2022, HURIDOCS participated in **Civic Tech Surgery #6** discussing civic tech in hostile environments and how to thrive in challenging contexts? The surgery resulted in an **Action Lab** that resulted in the development of the **Election Violence Tracker** (Nigeria).

2022 NONPROFIT SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT SUMMIT
In November 2022, Aspiration Tech hosted a virtual **Development Summit** aimed at those working in tech, nonprofit, activism, and social movement spaces. Four members of the HURIDOCS team attended the virtual summit to learn from, and network with grassroots activists and software developers alike, while giving visibility to HURIDOCS in this community situated at the intersection of organising and technology. The agenda was based and built upon input from those participating and focused on skill-sharing, storytelling, and peer knowledge sharing.

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FINANCES

In 2022, HURIDOCS had a budget of 2.05 million USD, representing consistent growth compared to 2021, when it was at 1.72 million USD.

As the funding landscape for human rights continues to change, we remain committed to harmonising our funding approaches with our overarching organisational mission and strategy.

The trust placed in us by our partners propels us forward, highlighting our responsibility to stand as pillars of support, vigilance, guidance, and counsel in their endeavours.

OUR FUNDERS

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the following donors for their invaluable support, which significantly contributed to advancing HURIDOCS' mission and empowering the work of our partners:

- Google (via Tides Foundation)
- OAK Foundation
- Open Society Foundations
- Alfred Landecker Foundation
- Silicon Valley Community Foundation
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- Capital Group
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- Däster-Schild Stiftung
- Organisation Internationale de Francophonie
- HIVOS
- The Sigrid Rausing Trust
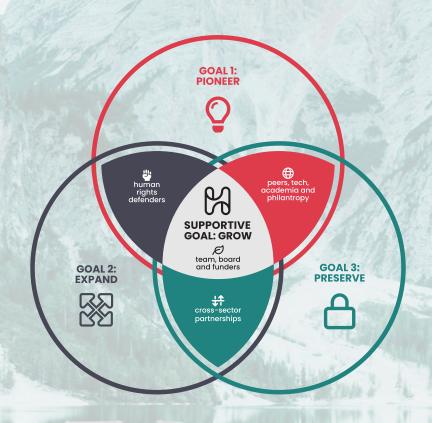- Okta for Good (via Tides Foundation)

Looking ahead
ORGANISATIONAL STRATEGY 2022–2026

In 2022, HURIDOCS engaged in extensive introspection on the last 40 years to determine HURIDOCS' future direction.

This involved collaborative discussions with various stakeholders, our staff, board, and external partners. We organised reflection sessions, visioning workshops, and analysed our external environment. Additionally, we undertook consultations and research to evaluate the impact of our work within the framework of our theory of change.

An independent external evaluation played a pivotal role, providing insights and recommendations from the previous strategic period, which proved instrumental in shaping our new strategy, drawing from valuable forward-looking lessons.

This strategy development process led us to our **Organisational Strategy 2022–2026** by defining four goals that will guide our work for the next five years: pioneer, expand, preserve and grow to meet the demand from the many human rights organisations and adjacent communities who request our guidance and support.

GOAL 1: PIONEER

human rights defenders

peers, tech, academia and philantropy

SUPPORTIVE GOAL: GROW
team, board and funders

GOAL 2: EXPAND

cross-sector partnerships

GOAL 3: PRESERVE

STRATEGY 2022–2026

Only when information is accessible in the long run, can it be of use.

Only when human rights defenders are part of the exploration of new technological advances, will they be able to fully use them to their advantage.

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