



**JUSTICE
RAPID
RESPONSE**



MAKING JUSTICE POSSIBLE

Providing Prompt, Impartial and Professional Expertise to Investigate International Crimes and Serious Human Rights Violations to Ensure All Victims and Survivors Have Access to Justice.

ANNUAL REPORT 2022

VICTIMS AND SURVIVORS MUST COME FIRST

This year, Muhammed Sandeng did us the honor of writing the foreword of JRR's Annual Report. Muhammed Sandeng is the son of former Gambian opposition leader Solo Sandeng who died in custody after being arrested in 2016 during peaceful demonstrations. He tells us about the long and enduring path to justice he and his family have faced.

At JRR, it is our belief that, in any justice process, victims and survivors must come first.



The process was a tedious and slow-paced exercise. Seeking justice for such a crime was a mammoth task, especially considering that the situation was highly unequal due to gaps in the judicial and investigation system. In the face of denial of wrongdoing and the many risks of having the case struck out of court due to lack of evidence, we had to overcome many challenges. First, there was a challenge to establish the identity of the mortal remains which seemed like the most farfetched milestone for the trial considering Gambia's inability to conduct forensic examinations. Following the identification process, the issue of accuracy of the pathologists' evidence during cross examination was another crucial milestone to be achieved to propel the fate of the case. Understanding JRR's work around the remains gave me insight of the process and prospects of the case which was the most fulfilling exercise considering that I was given first-hand information on the identification process and its outcome. Ultimately, my greatest satisfaction is in the ability to establish the truth and serve justice for me and my family. This brought the closure that was long yearned for. What can be done going forward to improve prospects of justice is building local expertise and fortification of state agencies to carry out independent, holistic and timely investigations with professional standards. This can be achieved through training, and access to proper equipment and facilities.



Muhammed Sandeng

WHAT A CONVICTION MEANS FOR SURVIVORS IN THE GAMBIA



On 13 July 2022, The Gambia's High Court convicted six operatives of the former National Intelligence Agency for their role in the 2016 killing of political activist Solo Sandeng. This was the most high-profile case connected to crimes committed during the era of former president Yahya Jammeh whose rule from 1996 to 2017 was marked by widespread human rights violations.

Gambian political opposition leader Solo Sandeng had been arrested in 2016 during peaceful protests and died in custody two days later, having been subjected to beatings and torture. Human remains thought to belong to Sandeng were exhumed in 2017, and in 2018, JRR was requested by The Gambia's Attorney General's Chambers and Ministry of Justice to assist in the identification of the remains and in the determination of cause of death.

A forensic team composed of a Forensic Pathologist, a Forensic Anthropologist and a Forensic Geneticist was deployed to The Gambia and successfully conducted the



Steve Naidoo

identification and determination of the cause of death, which in turn provided key evidence to the Prosecution team in support of its case. Both the Forensic Geneticist and the Forensic Pathologist subsequently appeared as expert witnesses in the trial before the High Court in Banjul in March and April 2019 respectively. Following the High Court's decision, the state returned Sandeng's remains to his family and he received a state funeral in January 2023, a key milestone in the family's quest for justice.



JUSTICE
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OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Justice Rapid Response partners with international, national and civil society actors by providing them with prompt, impartial and professional expertise, tailored to each context, to investigate international crimes and serious human rights violations and to promote the rights and access to justice of victims and survivors.

OUR KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

JRR IS SUPPORTING ALL ACTORS OF JUSTICE THROUGH ITS THREE PROGRAMMES

INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE PROGRAMME

Supporting international mechanisms to bridge gaps in expertise and for the inclusion of marginalized victims.

NATIONAL JUSTICE PROGRAMME

Supporting national jurisdictions to fight impunity at home and address international crimes committed in other countries under extraterritorial jurisdiction.

CIVIL SOCIETY PROGRAMME

Supporting civil society organizations to power up the whole “justice ecosystem” as justice and human rights institutions are increasingly recognizing them as key partners.

Chaos and destruction
in Bogorodichne,
Donetsk region.
Credit: misu



Since 2013, JRR has successfully deployed 18 JRR Roster Experts to the ICC. The 2022 signature of a framework agreement between the OTP and JRR aims to boost the collaboration and enable more direct and rapid deployments of JRR Roster Experts to the OTP

INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE PROGRAMME

UNCOVERING SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AND WAR CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN IN UKRAINE



UKRAINE

Following the full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine, JRR has been supporting the UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry (COI) on Ukraine with gender, child rights, and interpretation expertise.

In its second report, **the COI highlighted that Russian authorities have committed sexual violence in two main situations: during house searches and against victims they**

had confined. In confinement, the cases of sexual and gender-based violence affected mostly men, both civilians and prisoners of war. Regarding crimes and violations involving children, **the COI concluded that the transfer and deportation of children within Ukraine and to Russia amount to a war crime.** JRR was instrumental in uncovering these findings and will keep on supporting the COI's mission in partnership with UN Women.

NATIONAL JUSTICE PROGRAMME

RESTORING TRUST AND PUTTING SURVIVORS AT THE CENTER STAGE OF THE JUSTICE PROCESS IN THE MALDIVES



MALDIVES

The Presidential Commission on Deaths and Disappearances was established as part of an ambitious reform agenda that included strengthening judicial independence, restoring fundamental rights, and investigating allegations of abuses during the Yameen presidency.

JRR has been providing support to the Commission since 2020, and in 2022, continued

to work hand in hand with Commission staff to strengthen their capacity by deploying expertise in a number of investigative areas.

As a result, the Commission has employed new investigative strategies and techniques previously unused in the Maldives to advance lines of inquiry under its mandate. This has included the use of crime analysis as well as new areas of investigation such as financial and digital evidence.

Yazda documents the exhumation of the Solagh mass grave, in Sinjar, northern Iraq, of what are presumed to be Yazidi victims killed by the Islamic State (© Yazda 2019)



CIVIL SOCIETY PROGRAM

SUCCESSFUL CONVICTION BEFORE GERMAN COURTS IN RELATION TO THE YAZIDI GENOCIDE



IRAQ

In July 2022, nearly 8 years after ISIL's perpetration of the Yazidi Genocide, **the Higher Regional Court of Hamburg in Germany convicted German ISIL returnee Jalda A. with aiding and abetting genocide, in addition to crimes against humanity and war crimes for the enslavement and abuse of a young Yazidi woman.** This milestone case, to which JRR Roster experts contributed, is the second known genocide conviction for crimes perpetrated by ISIL against Yazidis. **The first**

genocide conviction by German Courts of Taha A.J. was delivered in November 2021 and was supported by JRR through its capacity building support to the Yazidi civil society organization Yazda. The victim in the case, named "M" in court documents, was identified by JRR's civil society partner Yazda, **to which JRR has been providing expertise since 2017 to strengthen its capacity to identify witnesses and survivors of international crimes.**

JRR'S THEMATIC FOCUS

In 2022, more than 40% of JRR's expert deployments had as primary focus the **violations of children's rights** and **sexual and gender-based violence**.

CHILDREN'S RIGHTS: The scale of the crimes affecting children in fragile settings is immense, but too often investigations have overlooked the experience and perspective of children. The specific vulnerabilities of children require specialized expertise to ensure that violations affecting them do not go unaddressed. Therefore, the inclusion of child rights experts can be a game-changer for impunity when investigating crimes and violations involving children. It affords child rights violations a higher visibility compared to mechanisms that do not benefit from this approach and support.

SHEDDING LIGHTS ON VIOLATIONS OF CHILDREN'S RIGHTS



LIBYA

Since the fall of the Qadhafi regime in 2011, the fragmentation of the Libyan State and the proliferation of weapons and militias vying for control of territory and resources have severely undermined the rule of law in Libya and fueled an armed conflict, in which parties allegedly committed widespread human rights abuses and gross violations. **To answer the dire human rights situation in the country, Libya has been the subject since 2011 of investigations by a Commission of Inquiry, an OHCHR mission, and, as of 22 June 2020, the Independent Fact-Finding Mission on Libya (FFM) which submitted its last report in March 2023, all**

mandated by the United Nations Human Rights Council (HRC), and all supported with expertise from JRR. The contribution of JRR helped uncover the recruitment and use of children by parties to conflicts and the arbitrary detention of children in hostilities. JRR has also been instrumental in demonstrating that children have been subjected to similar human rights violations as adults, including abductions, summary executions, arbitrary detentions, and torture. **A JRR expert has also worked with OHCHR to now systematically include a session on children in its introductory training for investigative bodies' teams.**

WHAT DO EXPERTS THINK OF JRR'S WORK?



I became very impressed by the work of JRR very early on while serving as an expert on FFM Libya between 2020 and 2023. JRR consistently and quickly deployed very high quality expertise to the team of the FFM Libya, persons who brought strong technical expertise and the ability to work well in a team and ready to work with experts, which are essential to achieve the best results in an UN investigative mechanism. From my vantage point, JRR is a step ahead in providing a pool of well qualified experts and quickly, which is critical given the very short mandates of bodies like FFMs.



Tracy Robinson,

Expert, Independent Fact-Finding Mission on Libya (2020-23)

SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE: SGBV is an umbrella term for violence inflicted upon someone because of their actual or perceived gender. All individuals – females, males, gender non-conforming individuals, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex (LGBTI) – can be victims of SGBV. It is a serious violation of human rights and can be a crime under international law, which has also been often overlooked. To mainstream gender justice, JRR has made SGBV one of its priorities, along with sexual exploitation and abuse.

JRR is proud to have developed a long-standing partnership with **UN Women**. Together, we are dedicated to supporting the UN system's efforts to mainstream gender issues and keep fighting **SGBV**.



Girls and women in burqas walk through a graveyard near Kabul, Afghanistan. AdobeStock

TACKLING THE CRIME OF GENDER PERSECUTION: A CULMINATION OF RELENTLESS EFFORTS

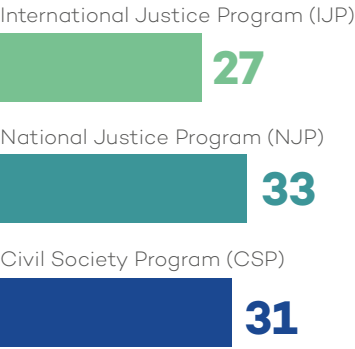
In 2014, JRR deployed an SGBV investigator to support the ICC's Office of the Prosecutor, contributing to the first ICC confirmation of the charge of gender-based persecution (Al Hassan case, Mali). In 2021, **JRR roster expert Lisa Davis was appointed as the ICC's Special Advisor on Gender Persecution** to advise the Prosecutor's Office on the investigation and prosecution of the crime against humanity of persecution on the grounds of gender. **The Special Advisor's work led to the ICC's Policy on the crime of gender persecution, which recognizes all victims of this crimes, namely women, girls, men, boys, and LGBTQI+ persons.** It takes a comprehensive approach in the investigation of SGBV to prove the existence of a crime against humanity on the ground of gender persecution.

JRR proudly contributed to the elaboration of the new policy and sees the need for justice actors to further document the crime of gender persecution in many contexts. This includes Afghanistan and Iran where prominent women launched a campaign calling on States to recognize gender 'apartheid' as a crime under international law. Further demonstrating JRR's commitment to tackling this issue, we are currently deploying an SGBV expert to support the work of the UN Special Rapporteur (SR) on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan. **The JRR expert's work contributed to the SR's determination that the ongoing discriminatory denial of women and girls' fundamental human rights may amount to the crime against humanity of gender persecution.**

OUR DEPLOYMENTS



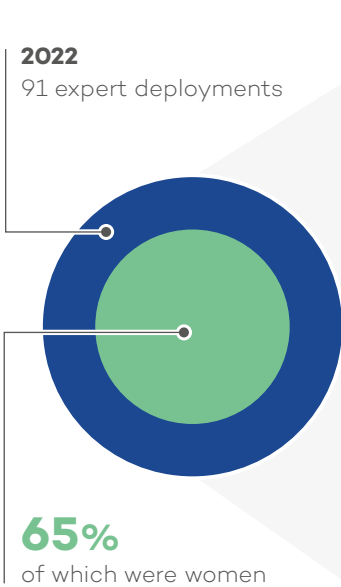
New deployments per programme in 2022:



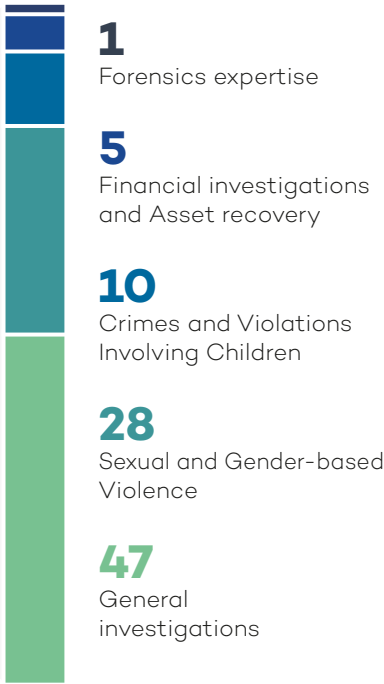
Deployments continuing in 2022 from previous years



Number of expert deployments, disaggregated by gender:



Deployments by primary focus:



OUR ROSTER OF EXPERTS

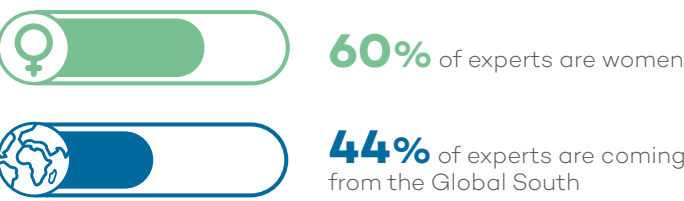
EXPERTS RECRUITED TO THE JRR ROSTER

Disaggregated by gender and by region of the world



GENDER AND REGIONAL BALANCE ON THE JRR ROSTER

Gender and Regional balance of JRR Roster

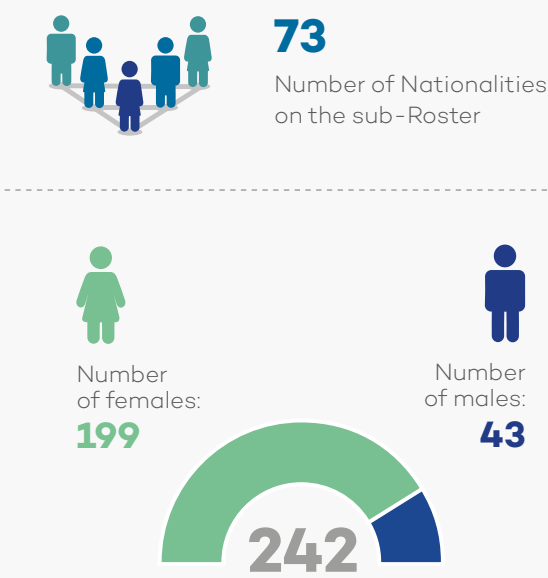


PROFESSIONS ON THE JRR ROSTER


Child rights	4,79%
Forensic sciences	10,81%
Human rights	11,81%
Investigations	22,54%
Justice administration	1,40%
Prosecution/analysis	11,31%
Legal advisory	22,30%
Military expertise	4,21%
Security expertise	1,57%
Technology expertis	2,15%
Witness/victim support	4,05%
Other	3,06%

JRR-UN WOMEN SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE JUSTICE EXPERTS SUB-ROSTER

About one third of JRR experts also qualify as gender experts and are part of a sub-roster run in partnership with UN Women.



Experts on the sub-roster per regions:



Africa	24%
Europe	34%
Americas	26.5%
Asia	11%
Oceania	4.5%

51%
coming from
the Global South

OUR DONORS

JRR WISHES TO THANK the following contributing States and entities for their support in 2022 without which answering our mission of ensuring that all victims and survivors of international crimes and human rights violations have access to justice could not be possible.



Canada – Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development



Canton de Genève



Denmark – Permanent Mission of Denmark to the United Nations Office in Geneva



Finland – Ministry for Foreign Affairs



Ireland – Department of Foreign Affairs



Liechtenstein – Division for Economic Affairs and Development



Luxembourg – Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs



The Netherlands – Ministry of Foreign Affairs



Oak Foundation



Republic of Korea – Korea International Cooperation Agency



Switzerland – Federal Department of Foreign Affairs



Ville de Genève



United Kingdom – Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office



UN WOMEN

**Should you wish to contribute to JRR's mission, please reach out to our team.
We have office presence both in Geneva and New York:**

GENEVA OFFICE

Rue Dr-Alfred-Vincent 10
1201 Geneva, Switzerland
Telephone: **+41 (0)22 544 29 00**
Fax : **+41 (0)22 907 36 99**
Email: secretariat@justicerapidresponse.org

NEW YORK OFFICE

450 Lexington Avenue
4th Floor- WeWork
New York, NY 10017, USA
Telephone: **+1 212-980-0193**

To consult our [financial statements / audits](#), please follow this link.

JRR ASSOCIATION FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

STATEMENT OF RECEIPT AND EXPENSES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021 (IN CHF)

	2021	2020
RECEIPTS		
Revenue from donors	5'163'070.31	3'000'873.29
TOTAL OPERATING INCOME	5'163'070.31	3'000'873.29
OPERATING EXPENSES		
Personnel expenses	1'559'908.00	1'306'154.04
Rent and utilities	135'620.46	124'784.38
General and Administration expenses	206'567.06	197'695.72
Consultant fees	173'695.10	168'060.63
Outreach fees	6'276.22	8'050.97
Professional fees	59'660.67	49'015.95
Executive Board and Assembly / Committee expenses	-	1'518.29
Other operating expenses	2'680'390.25	1'578'593.80
<i>Deployments</i>	<i>2'334'520.72</i>	<i>1'020'997.18</i>
<i>Recruitment expenses, including</i>		
<i>Sponsorship</i>	<i>52'796.31</i>	<i>108'295.01</i>
<i>JRR USA</i>	<i>93'073.22</i>	<i>449'301.61</i>
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	4'822'117.76	3'433'873.78
OPERATING RESULT	340'952.55	(433'000.49)
Financial expenses	(74'331.55)	(50'026.51)
<i>Interest expense</i>	<i>(418.47)</i>	<i>(709.05)</i>
<i>Other financial expense</i>	<i>(18'747.66)</i>	<i>(8'671.65)</i>
<i>Foreign exchange gain / loss – net</i>	<i>(55'165.42)</i>	<i>(40'645.81)</i>
TOTAL NON-OPERATING INCOME (EXPENSES)	(74'331.55)	(50'026.51)
EXCESS / (SHORTAGE) OF RECEIPTS OVER EXPENSES	266'621.00	(483'027.00)
Total release of funds	878'612.00	1'354'297.00
Total allocation to funds	(1'145'233.00)	(871'270.00)
NET SURPLUS OR (DEFICIT) FOR THE PERIOD	-	-

JRR ASSOCIATION FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

BALANCE SHEET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021 (IN CHF)

	2021	2020
ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Current assets Cash and cash equivalents and current assets with a stock exchange	1'643'289.32	1'339'135.53
Prepaid expenses and accrued income	15'641.94	121'260.79
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	1'658'931.26	1'460'396.32
Financial Assets	47'973.40	21'423.40
Non-current assets	47'973.40	21'423.40
TOTAL ASSETS	1'706'904.66	1'481'819.72
LIABILITIES AND FUNDS		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Other short-term liabilities	110'365.51	116'401.30
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	110'365.51	116'401.30
TOTAL LIABILITIES	110'365.51	116'401.30
FUNDS		
Donor funds	672'707.98	526'418.08
JRR funds	923'831.17	839'000.34
TOTAL FUNDS	1'596'539.15	1'365'418.42
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUNDS	1'706'904.66	1'481'819.72



CONTACT US

You can contact **Justice Rapid Response** through our Geneva secretariat

Phone: **+41 22 544 29 00**

Email: **secretariat@justicerapidresponse.org**

Website: **www.justicerapidresponse.org**

Cover photo:
Portrait of happy friends sitting outdoors
Mohammad Bashir Aldaher/EyeEm