

# ANNUAL REPORT 2011



SOUTH ASIANS FOR  
HUMAN RIGHTS (SAHR)

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## **MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR AND CO-CHAIR**

South Asians for Human Rights (SAHR) is pleased to present its annual report on the initiatives taken in 2011 to promote and protect human rights in the region.

Under the key programme area of State, Democracy and Citizens' Participation, SAHR continued monitoring the legislatures of Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka and engaged with parliamentarians and civil society via national consultations under the Parliament Watch programme. Covering both the areas of inclusive electoral process, and the rights of minorities, SAHR also produced reports on the situation of minorities in relation to elections.

Under the area of Impunity and conflict, in response to the existence of draconian anti-terrorism laws in the region, SAHR held a regional workshop, bringing together experts to draft a set of guidelines for States to follow when carrying out counter-terrorism measures, in order to protect human rights.

Finally the area of Displacement covered national consultations which focused on seeking ways to operationalise the UN Guiding Principles on Displacement, in order to ensure the promotion and protection of the rights of displaced people.

SAHR also continued with its annual activities including press statements, news alerts and posting of judicial decisions on the abuse of power and breach of fundamental rights, to the SAHR website. Through 2011, SAHR continued to monitor and report the status of minorities in South Asia.

The organisation is always grateful to all the members who have worked with us to reach a common goal and to our donor partners for their continued funding support which has enabled us to move forward on the promotion of human rights and democratic governance.

We commend the Secretariat and the Chapter Coordinators for having worked diligently in supporting the national bureaus to carry out SAHR activities.

**Hina Jilani**  
**Chairperson**

**Dr. Nimalka Fernando**  
**Co-Chairperson**

## SAHR AT A GLANCE

South Asians for Human Rights (SAHR) is a democratic regional network of human rights defenders with a large membership base of individuals and organisations committed to promotion and protection of human rights at both national and regional levels.

**VISION:** A South Asian region that guarantees political, economic, social and cultural conditions for all peoples to realize their rights and live in dignity, justice and peace.

**PURPOSE:** To promote and defend the human rights of all peoples in South Asia in the political, economic, social and cultural spheres, at both the regional and national levels, by activating regional responses through regional instruments, monitoring mechanisms, legal frameworks, policies and practices.

Building on the mandate of the Neemrana Declaration, SAHR's vision captures the importance of protecting and preserving the rights of all citizens in the region. Its objectives can be summarized as seeking to:

- Foster the concept of multiple South Asian identities by enabling citizens to realise their aspirations for peace, democracy, secularism, justice, and human security, while promoting pluralism in approaches towards social, political, economic and cultural development of different communities based on ethnicity, language, religion, and gender.
- Contribute to the realisation of a participatory democracy, by enabling citizens to be involved in decision making and by strengthening regional responses, regional instruments, monitoring human rights violations, reviewing laws, policies and practices that have an adverse impact on human rights; and conducting campaigns and programmes on issues of major concern in the region.
- Advocate for just and responsive states to take initiatives for peace and cooperation that will enable citizens to benefit from the sharing of resources, and build a just society based on non-discrimination.

SAHR's strength and legitimacy comes from its democratic structure and broad-based membership of recognised human rights defenders in the region. SAHR members, both institutional and individual, form the network's general body which currently consists of members from eight South Asian countries and a twenty member elected bureau functioning as the organisation's executive body.

# PROGRAMMES

SAHR's three key programme areas for 2009-2012 were developed in line with the organisation's vision, goal, and purpose.

## KEY PROGRAMME AREA 1: STATE, DEMOCRACY AND CITIZENS' PARTICIPATION

**Objective:** to ensure that the power exercised through State structures and political processes is inclusive, transparent and accountable.

### 1. PARLIAMENT WATCH

Further to the comparative study on the best parliamentary practices in the region and the right to transparent governance guidelines, SAHR planned to take these guidelines forward by undertaking a Parliamentary Watch programme. The programme began in March 2010 with the objective of monitoring and assessing the legislature's performance on transparency, accountability and human rights sensitivity. The study, which has been implemented in Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, produces regular reports focusing on how existing laws and regulations undermine democracy and transparent governance, and how they deviate from proposed SAHR guidelines, as well as the basic principles of good governance and accountability. The study also identifies and records the level of parliament's commitment to introducing legislation pertaining to governance and human rights and also its responsiveness to human rights concerns.

To advocate its findings, SAHR has engaged with parliamentarians, members of civil society organisations, the media, and other relevant stakeholders on different occasions. In 2011 such engagement took the form of a national consultation in Nepal. The forum, "Making Parliament Accountable and Human Rights Responsive", held in Kathmandu in December 2011, was attended by current and former politicians, civil society leaders and members of the media. Such guests included the Honourable Subhash Chandra Nembang as Chief Guest, former home minister Honourable Bhim Rawal, former Foreign Minister Honourable Upendra Yadav, Mr. Padma Ratna Tuladhar and Mr. Yubraj Ghimire.



The aim of the national consultation was to share the findings of the Parliament Watch study being conducted by a partner organization for SAHR, and to invoke a discussion among parliamentarians, civil society leaders, media and academicians alike about the necessity and importance of making the parliament accountable and responsive to human rights. The program was divided into three sessions in which Parliamentarian's Role, Civil Society and Citizen's Role and Media's Role in making transparent and accountable parliament was voiced. Many SAHR members, representatives of human rights organizations, and students also participated in this program.

In 2012 SAHR plans to hold national consultations in Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. Once these national consultations have been held, the findings and recommendations from the series of consultations including SAHR's findings in each country will be consolidated and published, and distributed to the various South Asian parliaments. This document is to be used for advocacy purposes in the future.

## **2. PROMOTION OF INCLUSIVE ELECTORAL PROCESS IN SOUTH ASIA**

SAHR has been preparing reports on the situation of minorities in relation to the electoral process in Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. The reports examine the situation in relation to elections, of women, religious minorities, IDPs and other marginalized groups and focus on how these groups are affected by electoral laws and practices, and attempts or voices raised for and against their inclusion. The country reports will be compiled as a regional publication and used for advocacy purposes.

In 2011 the Sri Lanka and Bangladesh reports were completed and finalised, joining the Pakistan report which was completed last year. The Nepal report is currently being drafted, the Indian version of the report is currently under review and will be finalised in 2012.

In 2012 SAHR also plans to host a regional consultation bringing together representatives of political parties from throughout South Asia on the topic of transparency and the internal democracy of political parties.

## **3. THE REGIONAL MULTIALOGUE & REGIONAL CONSULTATION OF CITIZENS VOICES 2010**

Following on from the South Asian Multilogue of eminent persons titled "Challenges to Peace and Prospects for Cooperation" held in New Delhi in 2010, SAHR convened a follow-up meeting in April 2011 with human rights activists from around the region to discuss how to best utilize and proceed with the recommendations made at the Regional Multilogue. The outcome of these discussions will be used for both advocacy and to set the tone for SAHR's future work.

## **4. PUBLICATION AND SHARING OF RELEVANT JUDICIAL DECISIONS IN THE REGION**

The SAHR website hosts this programme, with relevant judgments on fundamental rights from the region uploaded as they are received. The judgements are categorised into the specific areas of abuse of power by the executive, minority rights, torture, and electoral abuses, to name a few. The countries which the programme covers are Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

Through creating this database of reported fundamental rights judgements SAHR intends to better equip litigants suing to have their rights enforced, to fight their own cases

## **5. REPORTING ON THE STATUS OF MINORITIES**

In 2011 SAHR continued to produce country reports on the status of minorities in the South Asian region. These reports highlight the main issues that face minorities and provide details on how the political systems, whether democratic or authoritarian, have promoted conditions for majoritarian domination and exclusion of others.

The reports, once finalised, will be shared with partner organisations, and also will be uploaded to the SAHR website. They can be accessed [here](#)

## KEY PROGRAMME AREA 2: IMPUNITY AND CONFLICT

**Objective:** to reduce the incidence of conflict and impunity through promoting the need for greater understanding and dialogue on pluralism and inclusive democracy, and to ensure justice to the victims through greater accountability of state actors.

### 1. EMERGENCY REGULATIONS AND SECURITY LAWS

SAHR commissioned background papers on the state of emergency laws, and their extent and effects, in Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. These papers provided information on the historical context of emergency proclamations, the constitutional safeguards against the abuse of such laws, actions the courts have taken or attempted to take against them, and the human rights cost of these laws.

The next step for this programme was to hold a regional workshop, bringing together experts on the subject from throughout the region, to develop a set of guidelines that States should adhere to in their counter-terrorism efforts, in an effort to maintain respect for human rights. The “SAHR regional workshop on human rights and counter-terrorism measures in South Asia, to develop guidelines for States to observe when carrying out counter-terrorism measures”, was held in Kathmandu, Nepal on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> September 2011.

The aforementioned background papers formed the basis for the first session, where country presentations and perspectives on anti-terror laws were made. Presentations were also made for Afghanistan, Maldives and Nepal. A session deliberating areas that the guidelines should cover followed, before the majority of the workshop focused on actually drafting and adopting the guidelines.

The draft guidelines focused on various concerns relating to the abuse of emergency laws, including, derogation from international human rights law, the necessity for judicial review and fundamental rights that should not be derogated from.

These guidelines are currently being finalised, and once this is done, they will form a compilation along with other relevant material that SAHR has produced in this programme area, which can then be utilised for advocacy purposes.



### 2. STUDY ON CUSTODIAL TORTURE IN SOUTH ASIA

With the existence of draconian anti-terrorism laws which allow State forces to act with impunity, and the increase in militarization in the region, SAHR’s research on Custodial Torture remains relevant today. The report, which covers Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, draws upon the incidence

of custodial torture by law enforcement agencies as well as examining the sources of their impunity in the laws and practices in each country. This compilation sets each nation within its constitutional history, and explores in each case; international commitments, legal provisions, responses of courts and other institutions, and lists case studies that show the gap between the norm and practice, and is aimed at facilitating an effective advocacy against custodial torture. It concludes with a campaign plan suggesting measures for legislative, administrative, institutional reforms which will guide SAHR's future work to create public awareness of such violations, to raise public voices against impunity and to advocate for changes in laws, policies and methods of law enforcement. The report, authored by Nitya Ramakrishnan, is expected to be published in 2012 by SAGE Publications, India.

### KEY PROGRAMME AREA 3: DISPLACEMENT

**Objective:** to secure the rights of displaced peoples ensuring their dignity and proper care, maintenance, rehabilitation and their right to secure a sustainable return to their original homes.

In 2011 SAHR commissioned background papers on the situation of IDPs in Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, and followed this up with national consultations on IDPs in Pakistan and Sri Lanka, while similar consultations in the rest of the countries will follow in 2012.

In Sri Lanka, the consultation involved about 30 people from both NGOs and INGOs. All of the invitees had some experience working in the field of displacement, and efforts were made to involve a wide range of experts in order to have the concerns of the various populations they deal with, heard at this consultation. The consultation's focus was to find means of operationalising the United Nations Guiding Principles on Displacement (Deng Principles), and this was on the final session in the agenda. The prior sessions included one where presentations were made on four different IDP populations within Sri Lanka, with the emphasis being that they face unique challenges and as such require unique solutions. Preceding this were presentations from the author of the background paper on IDPs in Sri Lanka, as well as a couple of presentations on providing humanitarian assistance in shrinking humanitarian space, and the way forward from early recovery.



The consultation in Pakistan, titled "Consultation on Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons in the Context of Shrinking Humanitarian Space", was held in on 13 December. Politicians, lawyers, journalists and human rights activists comprised the 20 participants. Following an introduction to SAHR's work on IDPs, and a summary of the UN guiding principles on displacement, presentations were made on the SAHR background paper on IDPs in Pakistan, the issues IDPs currently face there, as well as a review of past responses from the humanitarian community and the government. Finally a session was held on suggestions to operationalise the Deng Principles in Pakistan. Key recommendations included the formation of a working group, to monitor

legislation and policy decisions on IDPs, and assess if they are in line with the guiding principles, identification of key authorities to focus responsibility and accountability.

The consultation allowed an exchange of experiences between grassroots activists and INGO personnel on the problems and challenges faced, solutions that have worked, and potential solutions to adopt in future. The report on the consultation in Pakistan has been completed, and the Sri Lankan report is expected to be finalised in early 2012. SAHR's next step for this programme is to publish a compilation of the findings and recommendations from the national consultations, with a focus on regional trends and ways to operationalise the Deng Principles.

# SAHR ACTIVITIES

## 1. Citizen's Charter

The SAARC Charter for Democracy was studied at the Regional Consultation in Kathmandu in 2010 and found to be lacking in transparency, and undemocratic in nature.

Subsequently, the SAHR Bangladesh Chapter organized a national consultation on the proposed draft of the "SAARC Democracy Charter: Citizens' Initiative" in April 2011. The draft, presented by Imtiaz Ahmed, a professor of International Relations at Dhaka University, consists of 10 sections and 50 articles, focusing mainly on the obligations of the SAARC member states in nurturing democratic institutions, guaranteeing the rights of the citizens, strengthening the rule of law, peace and justice, and include consolidating political, economic and social governance for the welfare and happiness of the people of this region. The consultation was attended by diplomats, academics and human rights activists from Bangladesh.

## 2. RTI Conference, Shillong

SAHR attended an RTI conference in Shillong, India in March 2011. The conference was attended by civil society members and government officials from across the country. The product of the conference was the 12 point declaration that aimed to define procedures and rules that ensure that information about political parties, trade unions and NGOs can be easily accessed.

# ADVOCACY CAMPAIGNS

## 1. Press Statements

In 2011 SAHR issued press releases, memorandums to relevant authorities and alerts on its website to flag issues illustrating human rights violations that prompted collective action at varying levels, national, regional and international.

A few of the statements prepared by SAHR are

- SAHR Statement on the role of women at the Bonn Conference on Afghanistan
- Statement Addressed to the SAARC Heads of State by Members of SAHR on the occasion of the SAARC Summit Meeting at Addu – Maldives
- SAHR Condemns the Arrest of Anna Hazare and Other Activists
- Indian and Pakistan Citizens Condemn Serial Bombs in Mumbai
- SAHR Expresses Grave Concern at the Government's Opposition to the Right to Information Bill
- SAHR express concern over the government's statements on the shooting of Limon Hossain
- Statement Issued by SAHR on International Women's Day 2011
- SAHR Statement Condemning the Assassination of Pakistan's Federal Minister for Minorities

The full collection of SAHR statements can be found on [the website](#).

## 2. SAHR Newsletter

The 2011 SAHR Newsletter opens with an article written by Ms Dalia Pervin, an Assistant Professor at the University of Dhaka, who wrote about anti-terror laws in Bangladesh. Further to this, SAHR activities held throughout the year, including the Nepal Parliament Watch national forum, the Consultations on IDPs in Sri Lanka and Pakistan, and the regional workshop on emergency regulations and security laws. The newsletter seeks to keep the members, and other relevant organisations or individuals involved in human rights work, informed on violations and human rights issues in the region, and the role of SAHR and the work carried out by the organization. The full range of SAHR newsletters can be accessed [here](#) on the SAHR website

# ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

## **The SAHR Bureau:**

The SAHR Bureau Members elected at the General Body meeting in November 2011 in Kathmandu, Nepal, continued to guide the organisation, under the guidance of Chairperson Hina Jilani, and Co-Chairperson Dr. Nimalka Fernando.

## **AFGHANISTAN**

### ***Abdul Rahman Hotaki***

Mr. Hotaki is currently the Director of the Afghan organisation of human rights and environmental protection.

### ***Prof. Sarwar Mamound***

Prof. Sarwar Mamound is a Founding member of the Afghan Civil Society Organizations Network for Peace (ACSONP), Afghan Peace and Democracy Act (APDA), Editor-in-Chief of the Afghan Peace Act Journal (2003-up to date) and the Brishna Think Tank and is currently the Translation & Revision Officer of Language Unit at United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan. He has also held many posts in organizations and public offices such as in Sanayee Development Organization (SDO), the Human Rights Commission Pakistan (HRCP) Afghan Desk, and Swiss Aid for Afghans, and Director of Third Political Department for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Foreign/Cultural Relation Dept. for the Ministry of Higher Education, and the Publication Department of the Ministry of Frontiers and Tribal Affairs . He has also served as a lecturer at the Kabul Poly Technique University. Prof. Mamound is currently the Coordinator/ Chair for the Afghan Peace and Democracy Act (APDA).

## **BANGLADESH**

### ***Shaheen Anam***

Shaheen Anam is currently the executive director of Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF), Bangladesh which is a grant making organization providing funding and capacity building support to 150 organizations working on Human Rights and Good Governance all over Bangladesh. She has experience in development work, specialising in gender and human rights and has served in senior management positions in international as well as national organisations. Ms. Anam is closely linked to the women's movement in Bangladesh and is a human rights activist and a strong advocate for the rights of the marginalised communities. She has worked at CARE International, Bangladesh, the UNDP and UNHCR and was the Project Director of a Gender Equality Project conducted by the Ministry of Women's Affairs.

### ***Khushi Kabir***

Khushi Kabir is the Chairperson of the Association of Land Reform and Development (ALRD) and a Founder Trustee of the Centre for Policy Dialogue in Bangladesh. She is a member of the Human Development Foundation, a Core Group member of SANGAT, the current Chair of Panos South Asia and the chairperson of the Asia Solidarity against Industrial Aquaculture (ASIA). She is currently the coordinator of Nijera Kori, Bangladesh, a position she has held since 1980, where she works directly with landless peasants, both women and men, and other marginalised and excluded communities, through organising and mobilising them to assert and access their rights. She is also a secular, strong feminist.

### ***Dr. Asif Nazrul***

Dr. Md. Nazrul Islam (Asif Nazrul) of Dhaka University is a law professor, researcher, consultant and columnist. He did his PhD in international law from School of Oriental and African Studies of University of London and worked as a CDG fellow and Commonwealth fellow in Bonn and London respectively. Prof. Nazrul has also worked as Consultant with UNDP, ADB, DANIDA, SIDA, TIB, IUCN, Action Aid, CARE and other national and international organizations on good governance, human rights, corruption and natural resource management issues. He has published a number of papers in leading research journals and served as facilitator, speaker and panelist in various national and international conferences, seminars and workshops.

## **INDIA**

### ***Vrinda Grover***

Vrinda Grover is a human rights lawyer, researcher and activist. As well as a law degree from Delhi University, she received her Masters in law from New York University. As a lawyer she has appeared in several landmark human rights cases and represented victims and survivors of communal massacre, custodial killings, political dissenters, women and child survivors of domestic and sexual violence, sexual minorities and trade unions. Her areas of research and writing include the criminal justice system, issues of impunity and state accountability for human rights violations, impact of the war on terror on religious minorities, and a critical examination of the role of law in the subordination of women. She is presently engaged in the drafting of a law to secure accountability of state and non-state actors in situations of communal violence. She is a Bureau Member of SAHR, Board member of Greenpeace India and a founder member of the Working Group on Human Rights in India and the UN.

### ***Prof. Kalpana Kannabiran***

Prof. Kalpana Kannabiran, a sociologist and legal researcher and is currently Director, Council for Social Development, Hyderabad, an autonomous research institute supported by the Indian Council for Social Science Research. She was part of the founding faculty of NALSAR University of Law where she taught sociology and law for a decade, 1999-2009, and is a founder member of Asmita Resource Centre for Women set up in 1991, where she has coordinated research and legal outreach for women. Her work has focussed on understanding the social foundations of non-discrimination, violence against women, and questions of constitutionalism and social justice in India. She was a Member of the Expert Group on the Equal Opportunity Commission, Government of India, 2007-2008, and member of the Expert Group on Legal Education Reform in Kerala, Government of Kerala. She has been an activist in the women's movement since the late 1970s.

### ***Jatin Desai***

Jatin Desai is an activist and journalist, and is the national joint secretary of the Pakistan-India People's Forum for Peace & Democracy. He was a Research Associate with Focus on the Global South, a policy research organization. Mr. Desai was also President of the Bombay Union of Journalists (BUJ) and he has worked with various organizations on the issues of communal amity and peace and nuclear disarmament. He has worked extensively on the issue of Indian and Pakistani fishermen, on their arrests by the other country and worked on securing their release.

### ***Yousuf Tarigami***

Yousuf Tarigami is the State secretary of Communist Party of India (M) and he is also a member of Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly from the Kulgam constituency of South Kashmir.

## **MALDIVES**

### ***Jennifer Latheef***

Jennifer was elected to the first Executive Council of the Maldivian Democratic Party and Since 2007 Jennifer has been involved in local and international rights campaigns working with organizations such as Amnesty International, RSF, Article 19 and Frontline Defenders. Her work mostly concentrates on mobilizing youth activism to promote and create awareness of citizenship rights. She works mostly through an organization called NOOR which remains unregistered on the belief that the general public is sceptical about registered NGO's.

## **NEPAL**

### ***Vijay Singh***

Mr. Vijay Singh is an advocate of the Supreme Court of Nepal and human rights activist.

### ***Dinesh Tripathi***

Mr. Tripathi is an Advocate in the Supreme Court of Nepal and has been a human rights lawyer for more than 15 years. As a lawyer, he has conducted countless cases in the Supreme Court, as well as delivered lectures and paper presentations in various national, regional and international seminars, conferences, forums and workshops regarding human rights, peace and non-violent conflict resolution, democratization and the rule of law. He is also a regular contributor in various national newspapers and journals. Mr. Tripathi has been an active participant in the struggle towards democracy in Nepal, utilizing the rule of law to affect change, particularly since the royal coup in February of 2005.

## **PAKISTAN**

### ***Hina Jilani***

Hina Jilani is an Advocate of the Supreme Court of Pakistan and a human rights activist. She founded the first women's law firm in Pakistan in 1980 and Pakistan's first legal aid center in 1986. Ms. Jilani is also one of the founders of the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan and the Women's Action Forum.

Ms. Jilani is also affiliated with the United Nations Center for Human Rights, the Carter Center, and the UN Conference on Women. From 2000 to 2008, she was the United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Human Rights Defenders. In 2006, she was appointed to the UN International Fact-Finding Commission on Darfur, Sudan and in 2009 she was appointed to the United Nations Fact Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict. She is also a member of the Eminent Jurists Panel on Terrorism, Counterterrorism and Human Rights and a patron of the Media Legal Defence Initiative.

She has received several national and international awards, including the UNIFEM 2001 Millennium Peace Award for Women and was the 2008 recipient of the Editor's Award for Outstanding Achievement by The Lawyer Awards.

### ***Zohra Yusuf***

Zohra Yusuf currently is the chairperson of the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan and is a freelance journalist writing on issues related to human rights and the media. She has been a council member of the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan since 1990 and has served as its Secretary General and the Vice Chairperson of the Sindh Chapter.

### ***Salima Hashmi***

Besides being an accomplished painter, she taught at Pakistan's prestigious National College of Arts (NCA) for about thirty years and served as the Principal of NCA for four years. In 1999, Salima Hashmi received Pakistan's Pride of Performance award. Today she is the Dean of School of Visual Arts at the newly established Beaconhouse National University in Lahore and she also runs her own art gallery featuring works of young artists. Salima Hashmi has also been active in the human rights movement since the early 80s when she was one of the founding members Women's Action Forum.

### ***Kamran Arif***

Kamran Arif is a lawyer by profession. He has been associated with Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) since 1992, has remained its Vice-Chair and is presently on its Executive Council. He has worked on issues relating to the rights of the religious minorities; Refugees and IDPs; Special areas including the Federally Administered Tribal Areas and the Gilgit-Baltistan region; Elections and Electoral Laws; and the Criminal Justice System. Kamran Arif has been member of the South Asia People's Commission on the Rights of the Minorities (SAPCROM) team that visited Pakistan in 2004 and Nepal in 2005.

## **SRI LANKA**

### ***K. S. Ratnavale***

Mr. K. S. Ratnavale, a prominent human rights lawyer from Sri Lanka, is currently the Executive Director of the Centre for Human Rights and Development (CHRD). He is also an Executive Committee Member of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka (2010-2011) and was elected President of the Colombo Law Society from 2000-2001 which is the largest branch of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka. Mr. Ratnavale has appeared and prosecuted on behalf of the victims in some landmark cases concerning extra judicial killings and massacres committed by security forces and the police in Sri Lanka. He is also one of the convenors for of Lawyers for Democracy.

### ***Dr. Nimalka Fernando***

Dr. Nimalka Fernando is an attorney-at-law and a women's rights activist, from Sri Lanka. She is a presently the Chairperson of the International Movement Against all Forms of Discrimination (IMADR), an INGO with consultative status (Special) with UN-ECOSOC , and is the Director, Women's Political Academy-Sri Lanka. She was Regional Co-ordinator of the Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development, Malaysia from 1989 - 1994 and was Programme Director for the Women's Human Rights Project (1994 -1996).

Dr. Fernando has served as a member of the governing councils in several regional and international human rights organisations such as South Asia Forum for Human Rights (SAFHR), Asia Regional Exchange for New Alternatives (1997 - 2006), and South Asian Alliance for Poverty Eradication (2008 - 2011).

She has also served as consultant for UNIFEM - Gender Budget Programme(Sri Lanka) and represented IMADR facilitating the USAid/UNODC assisted South Asia Regional Equity Programme(SARI-Q) focusing on Migrant' Rights-Anti Trafficking Project for South Asia (2000 - 2004). She was elected to be in the international NGO steering committee of the World Conference against Racism held in Durban 2000 where issues of trafficking and migration became strongly included in the Durban Action Plan. She has participated, representing Sri Lanka and IMADR, in several UN Conferences including Beijing Women's Conference (1995) Human Rights (1995) Racism (2000). She is also a convenor of the Platform for Freedom and a Committee Member of Mothers and Daughters of Lanka. She has wide experience being a human rights defender's trainer and resource person for women's empowerment.

### ***Ambika Satkunanathan***

Ambika Satkunanathan is an independent researcher who is presently a Legal Consultant at the United Nations, Colombo. She specializes in issues surrounding the rule of law and accountability; minority rights;

conflict, peace and development; and violence against women. Her recent publications include *Mistaking Politics for Governance: The Politics of Interim Arrangements in Sri Lanka 2002-2005* (with Charan Rainford, ICES, 2009) and contributions to the European Centre for Minority Rights' *European Yearbook of Minority Issues* (Martinus Nijhoff, 2010), and Oxford University's *Refugee Studies Centre Working Paper series* (Oxford, 2010). Ms. Satkunanathan is also a trustee of the Neelan Tiruchelvam Trust and Chairperson of the Women & Media Collective, Sri Lanka.

### ***Dr. Deepika Udagama***

Dr. Deepika Udagama is the former Head of Department of the Faculty of Law, University of Colombo. She was the Founder Director of the Centre for the Study of Human Rights of the University of Colombo. She is a former Member of the Sri Lanka Law Commission, and the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka. Dr. Udagama was Sri Lanka's former Alternate Member to the then United Nations (UN) Sub-Commission on the promotion and protection of Human Rights, and the UN Sub-Commission's Special Rapporteur on Globalization and its impact on Human Rights. She currently serves on the Board of the UN Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the field of human rights representing the Asia-Pacific region.



### **SAHR Secretariat and National Coordinators**

The SAHR Secretariat in Colombo, Sri Lanka provides overall support to the running of the organisation and also coordinates work at the national level.

National Coordinators in Dhaka, Kathmandu, Lahore and New Delhi ensure contributions from their countries for SAHR regional programmes and projects, and also coordinate local-level activities.

#### **SAHR Secretariat**

**Executive Director** - Shiranthi Jayatilaka  
**Regional Coordinator** - Buveendra Illangage  
**Communications Coordinator** – Nuwantha Peiris  
**Accountant** – Tharanganie Seneviratne  
**Office Assistant** - Roshan Manjula

#### **National Coordinators**

**Bangladesh** – Irfath Iva  
**India** – Varsha Berry  
**Nepal** – Sandesh Silpakar  
**Pakistan** – Hina Shaikh

# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS





**South Asians for Human Rights - (SAHR)**  
**Statement of Income & Expenditure for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2011**

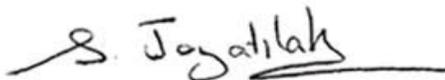
	Notes	2011		2010	
		Rs.	US \$	Rs.	US \$
<b>Income</b>					
Grants	9	9,586,925	89,536	-	-
Other Income	10	564,074	4,991	352,664	3,164
<b>Total Income</b>		10,150,998	94,527	352,664	3,164
<b>Less: Expenses</b>					
Programme Expenses	11	5,808,576	51,399	13,729,986	121,632
Staff Support	12	4,915,639	43,497	4,671,128	41,455
Office Costs	13	1,446,481	12,800	2,923,717	159
<b>Total Expenditure</b>		12,170,697	107,696	21,324,831	163,245
<b>Taxation</b>				-	
<b>Surplus for the Year</b>		(2,019,698)	(13,168)	(20,972,166)	(190,310)

**South Asians for Human Rights - (SAHR)**  
**Balance Sheet as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2011**

	Notes	2011		2010	
		Rs.	US \$	Rs.	US \$
<b>Assets</b>					
<b>Non Current Assets</b>					
Property, Plant & Equipment	1	47,247	410	104,632	909
Intangible Assets	2	22,917	194	36,667	316
		70,164	605	141,299	1,224
<b>Current Assets</b>					
Balance Receivables	3	741,951	6,565	451,041	4,093
Payment In Advance	4	161,800	1,432	169,980	1,542
Cash & Cash Equivalents	5	18,928,656	167,499	14,445,490	131,083
		19,832,407	175,496	15,066,511	136,719
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>19,902,571</b>	<b>176,101</b>	<b>15,207,810</b>	<b>137,943</b>
<b>Fund &amp; Liabilities</b>					
<b>Fund</b>					
<b>Accumulated Fund</b>					
Balance Brought Forward		14,478,649	131,324	35,450,816	307,810
Net Surplus for the Year		(2,019,698)	(13,168)	(20,972,166)	(190,310)
Effect on Retranslation		-	(7,923)	-	13,824
		12,458,951	110,233	14,478,649	131,324
<b>Non Current Liabilities</b>					
Retirement Benefit Obligations	6	589,884	5,220	485,080	4,402
Deffered Grants	7	6,524,960	57,738	-	-
		7,114,844	62,958	485,080	4,402
<b>Current Liability</b>					
Payables	8	328,776	2,910	244,081	2,217
		328,776	2,910	244,081	2,217
<b>Total Fund &amp; Liabilities</b>		<b>19,902,571</b>	<b>176,101</b>	<b>15,207,810</b>	<b>137,943</b>

We certify that the above Balance Sheet and the related Statement of Income and Expenditure to the best of our knowledge and belief contains true accounts of the surplus and cash & cash equivalent of the Organization.

Approved and Signed for and on behalf of the organization.



Date : 04/04/2012  
Colombo 08.



**South Asians for Human Rights (SAHR)**  
**Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2011**

**1. Principle Accounting Policies****1.1 Basis of Accounting**

The financial statements have been prepared in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles and accounting standards laid down by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Sri Lanka which have been applied consistently on a historical cost basis, with no adjustments being made for inflationary factors affecting the financial statements.

Previous year figures and phrases have been re-arranged wherever necessary to conform to the current presentation.

**2. Assets & the Basis of Their Valuation****2.1 Property, Plant & Equipment**

The Property, Plant & Equipment are stated at cost of Acquisition / Transfers less depreciation. Assets received as donations during the year have been capitalized at cost determined by the association and corresponding figures are shown in the fund account created for the purpose.

**Depreciation**

Provision for depreciation is calculated by using a straight - line method on the cost of valuation of all property, plant & equipment in order to write off such amounts over the estimated useful economic life of such assets, from the time the assets became available for use.

The estimated useful lives of assets are as follows.

Office Equipment	Over 4 Years
Furniture & Fittings	Over 4 Years
Computers	Over 4 Years
Computer Software	Over 4 Years

**3. Grants**

Grants on foreign funds are recognized on cash basis.

**4. Expenditure Recognition**

All Expenditure incurred during the year has been charged to the statement of income & expenditure on accrual basis.

5. Foreign Currency Transaction

All foreign currency transactions are converted in to Sri Lanka Rupees at the rate of exchange prevailing at the time the transactions were effected.

All monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies have been translated into local currencies, at the rate of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date while all non monetary items are reported at the rate prevailing at the time transitions were effected.

The exchange differences arising there from have been dealt with in the statement of income & expenditure statement.

6. Interest Income

Interest Income on fixed deposits and savings account is recognized on cash basis.

**South Asians for Human Rights - (SAHR)  
Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2011**

**1. Property Plant & Equipment  
Cost  
Assets**

	Computer	Photocopy Machine	Telephone & Fax	Internet & E mail System	Digital Camera	Cooler fan	Air Condition	Furniture & Fittings	Total as at 31/12/2011	Total as at 31/12/2010
Balance as at 01/01/2011	555,297	176,850	47,000	22,127	-	-	172,544	345,117	1,318,935	1,318,935
Additions	12,000	-	-	-	24,782	12,400	-	-	49,182	-
Balance as at 31/12/2011	567,297	176,850	47,000	22,127	24,782	12,400	172,544	345,117	1,368,118	1,318,935
<b>Accumulated Depreciation</b>										
Balance as at 01/01/2011	503,191	150,971	46,520	19,628	-	-	161,615	332,379	1,214,303	1,214,303
Charge for the Year	35,450	25,879	480	2,499	12,392	6,200	10,929	12,739	106,568	-
Balance as at 31/12/2011	538,641	176,850	47,000	22,127	12,392	6,200	172,544	345,117	1,320,871	1,214,303
W.D.V as at 31/12/2011 LKR	28,657	-	-	-	12,390	6,200	-	-	47,247	-
W.D.V as at 31/12/2010 LKR	52,107	25,879	480	2,499	-	-	10,929	12,739	104,632	104,632
W.D.V as at 31/12/2011 USD	249	-	-	-	108	54	-	-	410	-
W.D.V as at 31/12/2010 USD	452	225	4	22	-	-	95	111	-	909

**2. Intangible Assets**

Balance as beginning of the year

Less: Accumulated Amortisation

Amortisation as at beginning of the year

Amortisation for the year

Amortisation as at end of the year

W.D.V. as at 31st December 2011

	31/12/11	31/12/11	31/12/10	31/12/10
	Rs.	US \$	Rs.	US \$
Balance as beginning of the year	55,000	478	55,000	478
Less: Accumulated Amortisation	(18,333)	(162)	(4,583)	(40)
Amortisation as at beginning of the year	(13,750)	(122)	(13,750)	(122)
Amortisation for the year	(32,083)	(284)	(18,333)	(162)
W.D.V. as at 31st December 2011	22,917	194	36,667	316



