



**SOCIETY FOR
THREATENED
PEOPLES**

MISKÜLLÜ
MARADUNK
MINDE N
IDEKÖT

Annual Review

2014



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Editorial

Dear members and sympathisers of the STP

In April 2014, dozens of caravans drove onto the Allmend in Bern, as young Yenish travellers protested against decades of political inaction. They'd simply had enough. The city of Bern showed no understanding. The police forcefully expelled the protesters, giving them each a number and separating them from their children. For some, this evoked terrible memories of the Nazi-era. However, the protest actions of the Yenish were effective. The lack of pitches and access points and the lack of recognition of the culture and ways of life of Roma, Sinti and Yenish as Swiss minorities were at last under discussion. Our constant pressure meant that the Federal Government introduced two working groups to look into both the problems suffered by the Yenish, Sinti and Roma and the lack of recognition of different ethnic groups.

We also achieved our first successes in the gold campaign. We found that the worst gold producers in Peru can no longer pass through Swiss gold-refineries. Since 1 January 2014, gold exports and imports have finally been listed by producing country, so that there is now more transparency.

Through repeated protests, the STP also managed to ensure that in 2014, no Tamils were forcibly repatriated to Sri Lanka. Given the current human rights situation in Sri Lanka, it is irresponsible to put people at risk of arrest, arbitrariness and torture.

As always, we wanted to operate efficiently in 2014. We were successful in this, and are proud that - with an organisation capital of CHF 351,000 - we are better placed than ever before. We can now definitively say that we have overcome the last remnants of the embezzlement of 2012. A big weight has been lifted off our shoulders. We have already celebrated this with many of you at our 25th anniversary celebrations in Bern.

We are extremely grateful to everyone who, through their membership, donations and cooperation, has supported our activities.

IMPRINT

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CAMPAIGNS & PROJECTS

The Society for Threatened Peoples (STP) is an independent voice for minorities and indigenous people which documents human rights abuses through its campaigns and projects. The STP campaigns for the interests of minorities and indigenous peoples with the authorities and decision-makers, and informs and raises awareness among the general public.

In 2014, the STP primarily addressed the problem of anti-ziganism in Switzerland, the situation of internally displaced people in Kosovo, the effects of gold mining in Peru on indigenous people and the human rights situation in Sri Lanka following the civil war. Learn more on the following pages.



>>> Demonstration by the Yenish on the Kleinen Allmend in April 2014

Stop Antiziganism

RESPECT AND RECOGNITION OF YENISH,
SINTI AND ROMA IN SWITZERLAND

Yenish, Sinti and Roma are often subject to prejudice and discrimination in Switzerland. In April, the STP launched the campaign “Stop Antiziganism – Respect and Recognition of Yenish, Sinti and Roma in Switzerland” (see the Infobox for more about antiziganism). On 8 April, International Romani Day, the STP organised a protest in front of the Federal Palace together with Roma, Yenish and Sinti, as well as launching an effective appeal to the Federal Councillor, Alain Berset.

Following the European Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, “travellers” have been officially recognised as a national minority since 1998, and since then, this has been the official term to be used by the Federal Administration. The term does not reflect the reality for the affected groups because it deals with a mixture of different ways of life and ethnic groups. There are 35 000 Yenish people living in Switzerland, of which only 3 000-5 000 live as “travellers”. Meanwhile, a few hundred Sinti live a mostly traveller way of life. It is estimated that 80 000-100 000 Roma live in Switzerland, all of whom are settled.

LAUNCH OF THE NATIONAL YENISH, SINTI AND ROMA DAY

On 8 April, the “Day of the Yenish, Sinti and Roma”, all three ethnic groups stood together, at the STP’s initiative, to bring attention to their situation in Switzerland. In a protest action on the Bundesplatz in Bern that was highly visible in the media, the Yenish, Sinti and Roma demanded that they be finally recognised as minorities with equal rights. The STP also demanded that the Federal Council form a taskforce with representatives from the Federal Administration, cantons and members of the Yenish, Sinti and Roma communities. An important demand of the coalition is for the European Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities to finally be implemented in Switzerland. Switzerland has been obliged to do this since 1998. Moreover, the coalition demands that the Federal Council, Parliament and authorities do more to fight antiziganism.

YENISH PROTEST CAMP ON THE KLEINEN ALLMEND

At the end of April, around 120 Yenish families occupied the Kleine Allmend for two days. They demanded more pitches and access points, as well as their recognition as a Swiss minority group. In spite of the fact that a dialogue was taking place with the cantonal authorities, the city council sent the police in to clear the peaceful camp. The city council showed no political will to find a peaceful solution. The Yenish protesters were subject to both actual physical attacks and degrading verbal attacks from police officers, which were witnessed first-hand by the STP. The STP demanded an independent investigation into the disproportionate police actions as well as into the political handling of the protests. So far, however, these demands have not been met.

STP DEMANDS TASKFORCE AND MORE CULTURAL SUBSIDIES

In June, the Federal Council argued for the creation of a national taskforce, which had previously, at the behest of the STP, been postulated to National Councillors. The aim of the taskforce is to produce an action plan for the implementation of legal obligations towards the Yenish, Sinti and Roma communities. The STP welcomed the creation of this taskforce, but demanded from the beginning, full and equal participation of the affected minorities in the taskforce. These concerns were only taken into account after the majority of the minority group representatives had left the first meeting of the taskforce in protest.



Milena Petrovic Roma Activist & Actress

“The STP motivates us on our long road to no longer feeling inferior and ashamed of ourselves. We are human beings like everyone else, cultured, often with a long educational background, a degree and a completely normal career.”

Along with the introduction of the taskforce, the STP demanded in the consultation process of the Kulturbotschaft 2016-2020 that the subsidies for Yenish, Sinti and Roma be doubled, that greater priority be given to informing the general public about the concerns of the minorities and that equal participation of minorities be anchored into the political body. In a draft to Parliament, the Federal Council declared itself ready to consider the first of these demands. However, the equal political participation still remains a blind spot. The Kulturbotschaft was definitively adopted in May 2015.



ANTIZIGANISM

The term “antiziganism” has become established in the disciplines of history and the social sciences to describe the destructive combination of structural discrimination and cultural stigmatism of Yenish, Sinti and Roma. Like many forms of racism, antiziganism functions without the actual presence of those subject to it. When there are no Yenish, Sinti and Roma, antiziganism is still present. The subjects rarely have the opportunity to speak out. Along with the media, the Federal Council and the federal authorities are responsible for tackling increasing antiziganism in Switzerland.



>>> Demonstration on International Roma Day on 8 April

“Roma for Roma”

UNITED AGAINST DISCRIMINATION IN KOSOVO

Even after the end of the Kosovo War in 1999, thousands of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptians (RAE) are still registered as so-called “internally displaced persons” in their own country. Several Roma settlements were burnt down following the end of the war, many houses were destroyed or occupied by members of the Albanian majority population. 60% of the RAE who had to flee Kosovo at this time sought asylum in EU member states and Switzerland. Another large proportion sought protection in Kosovan and Serbian refugee camps following their often violent expulsion. Even today, many refugees are still living in these camps, in precarious circumstances.

Only 14% of the RAE refugees have returned to their places of origin so far, because they often feel unable to return home. This is often due to a perceived lack of safety and security, as well as a lack of state assistance. As a result, many RAE prefer to remain in informal settlements longterm and to integrate there. According to information from the Special Representative of the Secretary General of the United Nations for Displaced People, there are currently 97 000 “internally displaced persons” living in Kosovo and Serbia. Of these, thousands are RAE, who are among the most vulnerable groups. Under Kosovan



Dzafer Buzoli STP Representative in Kosovo

“The Society for Threatened Peoples (STP) has employed Roma to deal with their own community to improve the human rights situation of this minority group.

The STP has engaged Roma to work for the Roma in order to better understand the needs and have better access to the Roma community. The STP has made Roma voices heard and enabled many young activists to work towards improving the situation of this minority group.”

law, “internally displaced persons” have the right to suitable housing and both social and reintegration assistance. However, many RAE are still excluded from these programmes leaving them in a precarious situation. It is often difficult for Roma to assert their right to their former property. The STP is aware of cases in which the claims of RAE have been rejected due to ethnic prejudices.

THE STP DEMANDS THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL TO ACT (UNHCR)

The status and protection of internally displaced persons is not clearly defined in human rights legislation. An international convention on their protection and a clear legal definition do not exist. While there are UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, these are not legally-binding. The STP made a written submission to the UNHCR about the precarious situation of the internally displaced RAE and made the Special Representative of the Secretary General of the United Nations for Displaced People aware of this issue in a one-to-one meeting. Some of our recommendations were included in the UN report about internally displaced persons in Serbia and Kosovo.

GOOD NEWS: YOUNG ROMA REPRESENTATIVE IN THE UN OFFICE IN PRISTINA

The programme “Active for our Rights” in Kosovo (see Infobox) bore fruit in 2014: Ali Hajdini, a participant in the programme, was invited to the UN Office in Pristina as a representative of young Roma activists. Ali Hajdini acts as a contact person and can raise the concerns of the Roma community directly: a decisive milestone and a clear sign that the Roma programme is sustainable and successful.



ACTIVE FOR OUR RIGHTS

With its capacity building support programme, the STP enables young people to take responsibility. Young minority representatives are empowered to take an active role both within their communities and in the public sphere.

In 2011, the STP, in cooperation with young people, brought the empowerment programme "Active for our Rights" into being, and has supported it ever since. Young Roma representatives in five regions of Kosovo are engaged in improving minority rights and participation in society and politics. The aim is to enable the young Roma generation to develop structures and networks to take it upon themselves to claim their rights. The entire Roma community benefits from the active participation of young Roma who are empowered. This has shown itself to be particularly effective in the fight against discrimination.



>>> Participants of the STP capacity building programmes



>>> Protests against the Conga mining project at the Yanacocha goldmine

© Frente de Defensa Ambiental de Cajamarca (FODAC)

"No dirty gold!"

TRANSPARENCY IN THE GOLD BUSINESS

Gold mining by international corporations has again and again resulted in human rights abuses and massive environmental destruction. As disclosed by the STP in 2013, Swiss refineries import considerable amounts of gold from countries where these occur. On the occasion of BaselWorld, the most important watch and jewellery fair in the world, the STP published a report about the role of Swiss refineries in the production of gold from Peru. About half of the Peruvian gold, which is mined under dubious circumstances, is refined in Switzerland.

Swiss refineries process approximately one third of the world's raw gold. Furthermore, the Swiss jewellery and watch industries are among the world's largest consumers of gold. As one of the most important gold hubs, Switzerland has responsibilities: it must guarantee that Swiss natural resource companies, even abroad, guarantee human rights and ensure environmental protection. Therefore, in the "No Dirty Gold" campaign launched in 2012, the STP demanded comprehensive due diligence from refineries and watch and jewellery producers. Also when buying gold, importers must apply due diligence throughout their entire chain of production. One positive development from this was that in February 2014, the Federal Council made gold trade statistics publically available for the



Máxima Acuña de Chaupe Smallholder farmer and human rights activist

"The STP made the outside world aware of information which they would not otherwise have heard about, bringing some measure of justice in this way. And justice is exactly what we - Campesinos - here in Peru need."

have agreed to both the declaration and FPIC, yet only few have enforced them so far. When laws are actually drawn up, the right of co-determination is either cut out or watered down. On 9 August 2014, the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples, the STP demanded that the international community, governments and natural resource companies finally respect the co-determination rights of indigenous and local populations.

WORLD CONFERENCE ON INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AT THE UN

At the UN World Conference on Indigenous Peoples on 22 and 23 September 2014 in New York, indigenous peoples demanded the implementation of FPIC. The STP supported their position and requested that the Swiss government and the world community support the position of the indigenous peoples at the conference. To the great disappointment of the indigenous peoples, the terms of right to co-decision and free consent were watered down in the final statement. In the example of Peru, the difficulties in implementing FPIC are clear. The Peruvian government undercut FPIC in two ways. Firstly, they have weakened the term "consent", which is part of FPIC, to "consultation", meaning that the veto right of the indigenous people has been removed. Secondly, the Campesinos and Campesinas, who live a traditional lifestyle but no longer speak an indigenous language, have no longer been considered as indigenous people since 2014. They are, therefore, excluded from FPIC.

RESEARCH & SUPPORT FOR A HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVIST

In 2014, the STP focused on research. According to STP research, the Ticino gold refinery, Valcambi, imports around 70% of their gold from the Yanacocha mine. The STP calls upon Valcambi, the primary customer, to support a resolution to the conflict between the Yanacocha company and the local population. Research by the STP also shows that gold production in the old Yanacocha mine has been significantly reduced. The company is, therefore, planning a new mine and again finds itself confronted with resistance and resentment from the local population.

Furthermore, the STP supported the case of Peruvian human rights activist Máxima Acuña de Chaupe. The smallholder farmer was taken to court by the largest Peruvian gold producer Minera Yanacocha. Since then she has fought for justice. In 2014, Máxima visited Switzerland. She reported the heavy-handed pressure tactics of Yanacocha to the UNHRC. In Bern, she pointed out the close links between Switzerland and the Peruvian gold industry. There are rays of hope: in December 2014, Máxima was cleared of illegal land occupation.

first time since 1981. There are, however, urgent further steps to be taken toward greater transparency by the refineries and watch and jewellery producers. The Responsible Multinationals Initiative (Konzernverantwortungsinitiative) (see Infobox I) will give these demands the necessary emphasis that is needed.

RIGHT OF THE LOCAL POPULATION TO CO-DETERMINATION NOT GUARANTEED

The UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples with regard to Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) (see Infobox II) requires the right to co-determination of the local population when carrying out raw material mining projects. Nevertheless the implementation of FPIC is severely lacking. Almost all countries



I RESPONSIBLE MULTINATIONALS INITIATIVE (KONZERNVERANTWORTUNGSINITIATIVE)

The campaign "Rights without Borders" was launched in 2011. A coalition of organisations, including the STP, demanded via a petition to the Federal Council and Parliament that companies operating out of Switzerland be legally obliged to respect human rights and protect the environment. Victims of human rights abuses should be able to claim compensation in Switzerland. Since this parliamentary path was unsuccessful, the NGO Coalition 2015 decided to launch a national popular initiative, which is called the Responsible Multinationals Initiative (Konzernverantwortungsinitiative).

II FREE, PRIOR AND INFORMED CONSENT (FPIC)

FPIC is about the democratic co-decision rights that have been practiced in Switzerland for a long time in the form of local autonomy. FPIC requires that indigenous people are informed in detail and give their consent before an economic project can be begun, for example, a gold-mining project on their land. In 2007, FPIC was adopted as part of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.



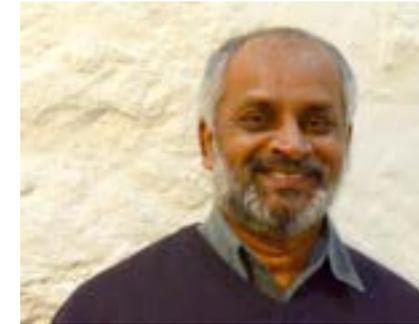
>>> Side event and lobbying by the STP at the UN on 18 March 2014

Sri Lanka

NO EXPULSIONS, ONLY VOLUNTARY RETURN!

Five years after the end of the civil war, the human rights situation remains precarious. Again and again, members of the opposition, media workers, members of the Tamil minority and returnees from abroad have been threatened, arrested, tortured or disappeared. In summer 2013, the Secretariat of State for Migration (SEM) expelled two members of the Tamil minority to Sri Lanka. On arrival in Sri Lanka both of the Tamils were arrested and tortured. In its report "Bei Ankunft Folter" (Torture on Arrival), the STP was able to prove that other Sri Lankan asylum seekers who were sent back by Switzerland had also endured a similar fate.

An independent report by the Swiss Center of Expertise in Human Rights (SCHR) from May 2014 came to the conclusion that in several asylum processes, the SEM, in cooperation with the Federal Administrative Court, underestimated the risks of return for Sri Lankan citizens. Because there is an active Tamil diaspora in Switzerland, the Sri Lankan authorities have categorised it as a risk country. Because of this analysis, internal guidelines for asylum seekers from Sri Lanka were ad-



Herman Kumara Director of the National Fisheries Solidarity Movement (NAFSO) of Sri Lanka

"We are very happy to report here that the work with the Society for Threatened Peoples has made a big difference to our work, from the survival of our leaders and activists to effective advocacy campaigns on people's issues."

justed. The proportion of accepted asylum requests from Sri Lanka has increased significantly, amounting to around 75% at present. Nevertheless, rejected asylum seekers have once again been returned to Sri Lanka since summer 2014.

NO REPATRIATIONS TO SRI LANKA

Due to the clearly deteriorating human rights situation in Sri Lanka, the STP maintains its opposition to expulsions. Returns to Sri Lanka must only take place on a voluntary basis. The authorities should offer greater incentives for voluntary return. When evaluating the risks of return, they should also take into account the worsened human rights situation, as well as the person in question's actions in exile politics and affiliations with exile political groups.

AUTOMATICALLY SUSPECTED OF TERRORISM

The Sri Lankan government vehemently rejected an independent investigation into war crimes. In March 2014, the UNHRC adopted a resolution to introduce an international investigation into war crimes committed by all parties. In reaction to this, the Sri Lankan government published a list of Tamil diaspora organisations and individuals suspected of terrorism. Six groups active in Switzerland were mentioned on this list. They were accused of actively supporting the resurgence of the "Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam" (LTTE) in Sri Lanka. The STP views the publishing of this list as a pretext for the oppression of Tamils and for continued militarisation in the north of the country. The STP asks the SEM to consider these critical developments in the risk assessment for future asylum decisions.

Success: the Sri Lankan government's list had no legal consequences in Switzerland and was included in the updated version of the policy on returning asylum seekers.

SIDE EVENT AND LOBBYING AT THE UN

On 18 March 2014, the STP in cooperation with “Tamils against Genocide” (TAG) organised a side event at the UN in Geneva with Tamil human rights defenders. The event about torture and sexual violence in the context of failed domestic processes in processing war crimes was intended to support the adoption of the resolution. Contrary to the claims of the Sri Lankan government, it should be made clear that there has been an increase in torture and disappearances of Tamils and critics of the government in recent years.

POSITIVE ASYLUM DECISIONS FOR SRI LANKAN REFUGEES

Thanks to the STP campaign, the SEM and the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA) no longer pursued a readmission agreement with Sri Lanka. It led to the risks for returned asylum seekers being given much greater importance than before. The successful asylum applications from Sri Lankan refugees and increase in appeals being upheld by the Federal Administrative Court are indicative of this. Thanks to the STP campaign, hundreds of people from Sri Lanka can remain in Switzerland.

In 2014, the STP carried out intensive research on tourism and human rights in Sri Lanka. It was investigated whether tourism development in particular regions of Sri Lanka led to systematic human rights abuses. The results of this research were published in a report in early 2015.



>>> STP protest action at the Sino-Swiss Economic Forum

Further STP Projects

SWITZERLAND GOES FULL SPEED AHEAD IN FREE-TRADE WITH STATES NOT RESPECTING HUMAN RIGHTS

In spring 2014, Switzerland concluded a free-trade agreement with China. The current human rights situation in China, particularly with regard to minorities, was completely ignored. Switzerland also negotiated free-trade deals with Malaysia and, together with the EFTA member states, with Russia, Kazakhstan and Belarus. The STP followed this growing bilateral economic engagement at the expense of human rights with great concern.

After Russia's incursion into the Crimea and eastern Ukraine, in contravention of international law, the STP demanded that Switzerland suspend negotiations with Russia. Binding human rights clauses must be included in all economic agreements.

CHINA: PROTEST ACTION BY THE STP AT THE SINO-SWISS ECONOMIC FORUM

For decades China has charted a successful economic course. However, China still oppresses the Tibetan, Uighur and Mongolian ethnic minorities. In recent years, China has become the third most important trading partner for Switzerland. At the end of 2013, Switzerland and China signed a free trade agreement

(FTA) in which human rights have no place. On 1 July, this FTA came into effect. The agreement was celebrated at the Sino-Swiss Economic Forum at the Port of Basel in Kleinhüningen. Even the Federal Council took part in the festivities. Members of the Tibetan, Uighur and Mongolian minorities criticized the FTA because it does not include human rights clauses. The STP sought to raise awareness of this issue at the Sino-Swiss Economic Forum by displaying a large banner in front of the event (see photo on previous page). The STP expects Switzerland to ensure human rights remain an important feature of bilateral and multilateral dialogue. Switzerland could encourage a dialogue between China and its minorities and opposition groups with a human rights clause in the FTA.

SWITZERLAND IN A DILEMMA OVER RUSSIA

Russia, together with the autocratic regimes in Belarus and Kazakhstan, founded a customs union. Therefore, EFTA negotiations with Russia regarding a free-trade agreement were automatically expanded to include all three countries. This placed Switzerland in a dilemma because it had imposed sanctions against Belarus and was now negotiating a free trade agreement with that very country, in which massive human rights abuses are the norm. Economic interests were therefore being placed above human rights.

... AND MALAYSIA

Negotiations with Malaysia were also carried forward, in spite of major environmental issues and the lack of legal aid in the country. The STP called on the Federal Council to tie all economic agreements to binding agreements to reduce human rights abuses. In 2014, the STP was in dialogue with the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) and presented its position in Parliament.

A ONE-OFF VIDEO DOCUMENTARY: THE CHECHEN ARCHIVE

The Russian government has prevented the investigation of war crimes that were committed during the Chechen wars. With its Chechen Archive, the STP, in cooperation with "Reporters Without Borders" and "PeaceWomen Across the Globe", has processed important evidence for the documentation of human rights abuses, war crimes and eyewitness accounts. The archive includes important video and photographic material that can be used for journalism, historical research and legal investigation, as well as for research into the victims of this war.



>>> Concert by Esma Redžepova at the Anniversary Party on 8 November 2014

STP Anniversary

25 YEARS OF THE SOCIETY FOR THREATENED PEOPLES

The STP Switzerland was born on 20 May 1989. It was founded by Göpf Berweger and Bernhard Pulver as a charitable association based in Bern. The concrete campaigns and projects that the STP carries out are often driven by current world events. At the end of 2014, the small association could proudly count a total of 13,270 members. The STP celebrated its 25 years of existence at the Hotel National in Bern.

An expert discussion panel on the STP campaign "No dirty gold! – Switzerland's Responsibility" kicked off proceedings. The topic was the current human rights situation in Peru as well as the role and responsibility of Swiss businesses. Julia Cuadros, an expert on the subject of gold at the NGO "Cooperacion Peru" and Christoph Wiedmer, Managing Director of the STP, presented the disturbing facts related to this subject.

In a lively podium discussion, second-generation Tamils talked with Martin Stürzinger, Programme Manager of the Human Security Department at the Federal Department for Foreign Affairs (FDFA), and Angela Mattli, Manager of Campaigns and Projects at the STP, about the situation in Sri Lanka five years

after the end of the civil war. These second-generation Tamils who live in Switzerland discussed their personal experiences of the human rights situation in Sri Lanka, which has barely improved. The audience heard about the consequences of this situation that second-generation Tamils are confronted with in Switzerland and how they bravely stand up for democracy and justice.

GOING ONCE, GOING TWICE, GOING ...!

Gisela Feuz presented the STP auction with great charm and humour. A trendy Freitag bag, the classic book "Stimmen aus dem Regenwald" by Bruno Manser, a Sri Lankan curry spice mix, gold bar magnet (a reminder of the dirty gold business) and a woven basket produced by pygmies were just some of the unique items going under the hammer. The proceeds were put towards STP human rights projects.

THE MAGNIFICENT "QUEEN OF ROMANI MUSIC"

The high point of the celebrations was without doubt the moving performance of Esma Redžepova and her band. Esma sings in Romani, Serbian and Macedonian. Indira Gandhi feted her as the "Queen of Romani Music" and this is how she has been known by her fans ever since - thanks to her loyalty to the Roma people and her many years as an ambassador for the Roma. Esma Redžepova has adopted 47 orphans and founded a home for homeless children in Macedonia.

BIG CHALLENGES FOR HUMAN RIGHTS WORK

Looking back on the campaigns and projects of the STP up until now, it is clear that Switzerland has always been, in some way, involved in human rights issues, according to Göpf Berweger, the co-founder of the STP. Very often, these human rights issues are not immediately obvious and are embedded in complicated topics. These issues can mostly be traced back to the economic position of Swiss politics, which naturally places great, though not unconquerable, challenges for human rights work.

In any case, we will stay on the ball with all the tenacity required!



ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT

PERFORMANCE REPORT

The main activities of the STP consist of informational, campaign and project work. The STP only carries out humanitarian projects in exceptional circumstances. To carry out its work, the STP is dependent on sufficient membership and donations. In 2014, the STP invested CHF 546,994.57 in fundraising. Member recruitment, which is an important measure in fundraising, also serves to sensitise the public to the objectives of the organisation. New members are primarily recruited through street campaigns. At the end of 2014, the STP had about 13,270 active members (Previous year (PY) 12,240). The executive board met five times in 2014 and put in about 250 non-remunerated hours for the STP.

The members of the executive board are:

RUTH-GABY VERMOT-MANGOLD, President, elected until 2015

GÖPF BERWEGER, Vice-President, elected until 2015

PAOLO WEGMÜLLER, stepped down 2014

SYBILLE OETLIKER, stepped down 2014

SONJA BEELI-ZIMMERMANN, elected until 2015

URS ZSCHOKKE, elected until 2016

JOSEPH LANG, stepped down 2014

THEODORA PETER, elected until 2016

In the course of 2014, the STP employed 16 salaried staff, including 6 interns and 1 trainee. As a rule, the internships last for 6 months and have been paid net wages with a monthly net salary of CHF 1000 at a work quota of 80% (PY only remuneration for a rail pass).

	2014	2013
PERSONNEL EXPENSES IN CHF	499,879.05	528,562.65
WORKING HOURS (AS EQUIVALENT OF A FULL-TIME POST) EXCLUDING INTERNS 31.12.	620%	420%
NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES 31.12.	8	7
NUMBER OF INTERNS 31.12.	1	2

The Society for Threatened Peoples Switzerland is the Swiss section of the Society for Threatened People International. The objectives of the STP Switzerland are in accordance with the goals of the STP International. A membership contribution of EUR 2000 (PY EUR 2000) was paid for the year 2014. Other sections of the STP International are in Germany, Austria, South Tirol/Italy, Bosnia-Herzegovina and northern Iraq. The STP also has representatives in other countries.

The campaigns and projects are outlined in detail in the Annual Review.

The STP would like to take this opportunity to thank all members, donors, foundations and public authorities for their generous support. Without it, none of our work would be possible – we are very much obliged! To the executive board, employees and interns, the STP would also like to extend heartfelt thanks for your tireless efforts on behalf of human rights!

BALANCE AS OF 31ST DECEMBER 2014

ASSETS	2014	2013
LIQUID ASSETS	596,243.82	449,263.80
ACCOUNTS OUTSTANDING	4,232.37	4,258.25
ACCRUED INCOME	14,706.33	43,833.84
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	615,182.52	497,355.89
PROPERTY ASSETS	11,000.00	16,750.00
TOTAL FIXED ASSETS	11,000.00	16,750.00
TOTAL ASSETS	626,182.52	514,105.89

LIABILITIES	2014	2013
SHORT-TERM BORROWED FUNDS	156,674.81	154,025.97
DEFERRED INCOME	44,012.07	30,828.61
LONG-TERM BORROWED FUNDS	50,000.00	320,000.00
TOTAL BORROWED FUNDS	250,686.88	504,854.58
FUNDS	24,469.38	49,439.68
TOTAL FUNDS	24,469.38	49,439.68
ORGANISATION CAPITAL	-40,188.37	-455,178.94
NET PROFIT/LOSS	391,214.63	414,990.57
TOTAL EQUITY	351,026.26	-40,188.37
TOTAL LIABILITIES	626,182.52	514,105.89

INCOME STATEMENT FOR 1ST JAN. 2014 TO 31ST DEC. 2014

INCOME	2014	2013
SALES REVENUE	2,160.70	2,715.00
MEMBERSHIP FEES AND DONATIONS	1,632,395.85	1,598,404.43
CONTRIBUTIONS	236,306.58	347,559.45
OTHER INCOME	18,021.00	1,480.30
TOTAL INCOME	1,888,884.13	1,950,159.18

EXPENDITURE	2014	2013
CAMPAIGNS AND PROJECTS	550,148.52	497,706.73
PERSONNEL EXPENSES	340,992.30	340,362.00
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES	126,020.08	102,057.71
FUNDRAISING COSTS	546,994.57	588,838.75
FINANCIAL INCOME	3,434.33	2,771.53
WRITE-DOWNS	5,750.00	5,750.00
TOTAL FUND INCOME	-24,970.30	-2,318.11
ORDINARY OPERATING PROFIT	340,514.63	414,990.57
TOTAL EXTRAORDINARY REVENUE	-50,700.00	0.00
PROFIT	391,214.63	414,990.57

APPENDIX TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2014

GENERAL ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLES

The Society for Threatened Peoples' accounting complies with the Financial Reporting Standards (Swiss GAAP FER) and with the Swiss Code of Obligations. The Annual Financial Review gives a picture of the true asset, financial and income situation.

CHANGE IN THE CONSISTENCY OF THE REPRESENTATIONS AND VALUATIONS

Compared to the previous year, there were no significant changes in the representation. The fixed assets will now no longer be written off from the carrying amount because of the expected lifespan.

ACCOUNTING AND VALUATION PRINCIPLES

Accounting is carried out in Swiss francs. This basically follows historical or production costs principle. This complies with the basic principle of the individual assessment of assets and liabilities.

Foreign Currencies

The reporting of business transactions in EUR takes place at a book rate of CHF 1.25 (PY 1.22), monetary transactions are recorded at the current exchange rate. Business transactions in other currencies were calculated at the current exchange rate. The accounting of EUR and USD funds as of 31.12.2014, as in the previous year, followed the tax value of the Federal Tax Administration (FTA).

Prepaid Expenses

The prepaid expenses contained in the essentially receivables include social security funds as well as rent and project salaries paid in advance.

Fixed Assets

The fixed assets include office facilities and computer systems. As in the previous year, a life cycle of 5 years was accounted for on a linear basis. The activation limit was CHF 3000. The fire insurance value of property assets was CHF 100,000 (PY CHF 100,000).

	1.1.2013	ACCRUAL	WRITE-OFF	31.12.2013
PROPERTY/FACILITIES	1,500.00	0.00	500.00	1,000.00
COMPUTERS/IT	21,000.00	0.00	5,250.00	15,750.00
	1.1.2014	ACCRUAL	WRITE-OFF	31.12.2014
PROPERTY/FACILITIES	1,000.00	0.00	500.00	500.00
COMPUTERS/IT	15,750.00	0.00	5,250.00	10,500.00

Short-term Liabilities

Obligations to fundraising agencies contain provisions from the sums for the year 2014. The obligations to pension fund amount to CHF 4001.30 (PY 1229.70).

Deferred Income

The overtime balance was calculated individually per employee. The Managing Director forewent a part of his overtime credits. This part was not accounted for.

Long-term Liabilities

The loan secured by the board of directors and the management was partly paid off in 2014. In 2014, the sum owed to fundraising organisations were settled in their entirety.

Organisation Capital

The annual profit of CHF 391,214.63 is assigned to the organisation capital. The negative organizational capital of CHF 40,188.37 remaining from the previous year is therefore nullified. The positive organisation capital gives us good reserves for the future.

Guarantee and Leasing Obligations

On the day of reporting, no such liabilities existed.

Compensation to Directors

The members of the board of director received neither attendance fees nor honoraria.

Connections with Affiliated Organisations and People

The STP Switzerland is a section of the STP International which has its headquarters in Göttingen, Germany. It has no affiliations to other organisations.

OPERATIONAL ACCOUNT

The following organisations have supported us with noteworthy contributions:

CONTRIBUTIONS	2014	2013
GREEN CROSS PROJEKT WADI	218,631	175,119
FONDATION PRO VICTIMIS CHECHEN ARCHIVE	0	71,900
FONDATION PRO VICTIMIS DONATION	0	50,000
STIFTUNG VOLKART VISION DONATION	0	10,000
REFORMIERTE KIRCHGEMEINDE SISSACH ROMA PROJECT KOSOVO	5,000	0
REFORMIERTE KIRCHGEMEINDE KREUZLINGEN DONATION	5,000	

CONTRIBUTIONS FROM PUBLIC AUTHORITIES	2014	2013
FEDERAL SOCIAL INSURANCE OFFICE TAMIL CAPACITY BUILDING	0	3,000
STATE SECRETARIAT FOR MIGRATION TAMIL CAPACITY BUILDING	0	5,000

CAMPAIGNS AND PROJECTS EXPENDITURE

Indirect campaigns and projects expenditure

The allocation of personnel costs is based on the recording of employees' working time. The administrative expenditure was calculated in the same manner.

STP International

In 2014, a membership fee of EUR 2000.00 to the STP International was deferred (PY 2000.00).

Exceptional Success

A part of the embezzled money was paid back under agreement in 2014.

THE ORGANISATION'S SITUATION

The financial situation of the organisation has improved very encouragingly. The savings of the last two years have led to surpluses, which enabled us to pay back a significant part of our debts and loans. The organisation is now, once again, standing on a solid equity base.

The complete Annual Financial Review with the Audit Report can be ordered from the STP or downloaded from the website: www.gfbv.ch/de/uber_uns/jahresbericht

TEAM & BOARD

2014 was a year full of emotion for us. It was particularly emotional to accompany the human rights activist Maxima Acuña de Chaupe, who fearlessly stood up to the “Goliath” gold mine Yanacocha to fight for her rights. We were also shocked by the manner in which Switzerland treated one of its own national minorities, the Yenish, on the Allmend in Bern.

There are, however, often moments that allow us to look to the future with hope: in December 2014, Maxima was cleared of the absurd charge of illegal land occupation. With joy, we noticed a new dynamic in the Yenish community: we have the ability to change something if we call the existing situation into question and bravely stand up and work together with like-minded people towards a better future!

The STP takes this opportunity to offer heartfelt thanks to all of the people who have worked with the STP either as an intern or as a volunteer.

THE OFFICE



CHRISTOPH WIEDMER
Managing Director

“The STP is bold and uses every means to change something for oppressed minorities. And it changes!”



ERIKA LERCH
Manager of Finance and Services

“The generous support of so many people motivates me to ensure that the membership fees and donations are used for their intended purpose and in an economical way.”



ANGELA MATTLI
Manager for Campaigns and Projects

“Sympathy is not enough – minorities and indigenous people have rights. The STP stands up for these rights. Defiant and thorough.”



YVES BOWIE
Campaigns and Projects

“The STP stands up for minorities and seeks to uphold human rights. That’s why I work for the STP.”



NICOLE HUWYLAR
Manager for Communication and Fundraising (since July 2014)

“NGO communication can sometimes be loud and sometimes quiet. I enjoy this variety.”



LISA SCHIRINZI
Finance and Services

“With a terrific and motivated team, the STP stands up for minorities. It’s a pleasure to work in this environment.”



TANIA BRUGGER MARQUEZ
Graphic Designer
(since October 2014)

“What motivates me is the great effort that the STP puts into its campaigns and projects. I really enjoy being able to contribute with my creativity.”



DOMINIC RUDOLF
Finance and Services (Trainee)

“I am doing my traineeship at the STP in order to gain an exciting and varied education.”

(FORMER) EMPLOYEES AND INTERNS 2014



ZSUZSANNA ZADORI
Chechen Archive

"The Archive helps to bring truth and justice to the victims of the wars. I find it professionally challenging and morally obliging to bring to life a factual, unbiased Chechen Archive."



RETO MOOSMANN
Manager for Communication
(until April 2014)

"The STP manages to make minorities be heard. That deserves support!"



ANNA FRIEDLI
Intern Campaigns and Projects
(until July 2014)

"I worked for the STP because it is important to recognise minorities and give them a strong voice."



DARYL SNELL
Intern Campaigns and Projects
(until April 2015)

"At the STP, it's not just about short-term campaigns but long-term relations and capacity building, so that oppressed groups can take it into their own hands to fight for their rights."



NOÉMI WEBER
Intern Campaigns and Projects
(until January 2014)

"The STP looks behind the scenes in a critical way and gets to the roots of the problems."



ANNA RUDIN
Intern Campaigns and Projects
(until December 2014)

"The work of the STP is important because strong people work with great motivation and much expertise to stand up for outsiders."



JESSICA FUCHS
Communication
(until January 2014)

"What was particularly motivating for me was that thanks to the Sri Lanka campaign, the STP prevented the deportation of hundreds of refugees from Sri Lanka."

NICOLE POZZI
Intern Communication
(until February 2014)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



RUTH-GABY VERMOT-MANGOLD
President STP

"I'm proud to be President of the STP, because here fearless employees and a solid management engage themselves unconditionally for the protection of human rights. Even in politically difficult situations!"



GÖPF BERWEGER
Vice-President STP, Economist,
Founding Member of the STP

"In times of globalisation – with large migration movements and increasing tension in integration issues – it is especially important that the collective human rights of minorities and entire peoples are supported and protected."



SONJA BEELI-ZIMMERMANN
Project Manager Gerster
Consulting

"My engagement for the STP is a win-win situation: I can contribute to human rights being improved for particular groups and always learn something new at the same time."



URS ZSCHOKKE
Retired Doctor

"I've been involved since 2014 because to win, you have to stick to your guns!"



THEODORA PETER
Journalist and Owner of
sprachkraft.ch

"I support the STP because it combines professionalism with strong commitment."



“Diversity is better than monoculture: cultural, linguistic and ethnic diversity is one of humanity’s greatest resources. The STP seeks to make sure that this wealth survives. Thank you very much for your support!”

Bernhard Pulver

*State Council, Director of Education
of the Canton of Bern and
Co-founder of the STP*

WITH THE STP FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

The Society for Threatened Peoples (STP) is an international human rights organisation that stands up for minorities and indigenous peoples. It documents human rights abuses, informs and sensitises the public and represents the interests of the victims before public authorities and decision-makers. It supports local efforts to improve the human rights of minorities and indigenous peoples and works together, both nationally and internationally, with organisations that pursue similar goals. The STP has advisory status at both the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and the Council of Europe.



BE ACTIVE – SUPPORT US!

Our engagement is only possible with your support. With your membership or your donation, we support minorities and indigenous peoples around the world.

Register at: www.gfbv.ch/aktiv_werden

Thank you very much!



www.gfbv.ch