



**SOCIETY FOR  
THREATENED  
PEOPLES**



**ANNUAL REPORT**

**2016**

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## IMPRESSUM

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## EDITORIAL

*“Where gold talks, no other talk counts.” For years, gold workers in Peru had been experiencing just how true this German expression is. Their dignity and rights were being violated. They revolted, they fought and after years of protest, the Peruvian gold firm Yanacocha put its five-billion-dollar new gold mine “Conga” on hold. A fine achievement! However, the human rights of the disadvantaged Peruvian people who are affected by mining activities on their land remain at risk. The STP is continuing to be vigilant and, together with its partner organisations in Peru, supporting the miners' protests. Here, the dedicated Peruvian small-scale farmer Máxima Acuña de Chaupe is in the foreground, with her legal battle against the mining company Yanacocha. The STP is doing everything it can to ensure that only clean gold is imported into Switzerland in future.*

*In 2016, the STP helped Yenish organisations to process the history of the so-called “children of the country road”. By means of a panel discussion, it was able to draw attention to this dark chapter in the history of Switzerland. One key milestone was Federal Councillor Berset's visit to Feckerchilbi, the Yenish people's annual festival: for the first time, a federal councillor acknowledged the Sinti and the Yenish as independent minorities in Switzerland.*

*Another milestone during this year was the completion and public release of the Chechen Archive, which was made possible by intensive cooperation between the STP, PeaceWomen Across the Globe and Reporters Without Borders. This archive provides an important basis for coming to terms legally and historically with war crimes in the two Chechen Wars from 1994 to 2009.*

*In Sri Lanka, the STP published a critical report on the militarisation and difficult human rights situation in the Jaffna region, which politicians are taking almost no action against. Despite threats and intimidation, those affected spoke out about their experiences. The STP is calling on Sri Lanka's government to end the militarisation and to actively prosecute human rights violations.*

*We look back on a year that was rich in variety and also financially pleasing. We draw motivation from failure in human rights work, but also from fine achievements! We offer our sincere thanks to everyone who made our work possible this year via their membership, donations and participation!*



**Christoph Wiedmer**  
CO-DIRECTOR



**Ruth-Gaby Vermot-Mangold**  
PRESIDENT

## CAMPAIGNS & PROJECTS

*In 2016, the STP once again spared no effort in championing the human rights of minorities and indigenous peoples worldwide. In Switzerland, it campaigned for acknowledgement of the Roma, Sinti and Yenish. In Sri Lanka, it addressed the militarisation and tourism development that are leading to human rights violations. In addition, the STP campaigned against human rights violations caused by gold mining in Peru. Beyond this, we have also been kept busy by other concerns and projects all around the world.*

*Together with our partners, we were able to realise important achievements in 2016, as shown in the following overview.*

### **USA** North Dakota / Switzerland

Construction of the controversial section of the Dakota Access Pipeline was temporarily suspended as a result of massive protests. The STP called on Swiss banks and others to act with regard to human rights violations.

### **PERU** Cajamarca

Due to years of protest, the five-billion-dollar gold and copper project "Conga" was put on hold. The STP also demanded that the local community needs to be included in such projects.

### **PERU** Madre de Dios

By attending our workshop on human rights and indigenous rights, 30 people had their possible courses of action directly explained to them.



**BELGIUM** Brussels

The STP presented the results of the report on the situation of the Roma in Kosovo to EU Parliament representatives.

**CHECHNYA/SWITZERLAND**

1270 video sequences about the Chechen Wars were systematically processed and are now publicly accessible..

**SWITZERLAND**

Federal Councillor Alain Berset publicly acknowledged the endonyms of the Yenish and Sinti.

**KOSOVO**

The Ministry of Internal Affairs is currently developing a new strategy for inclusion of Roma, Ashkali and Balkan Egyptians, into which the results of our 2015 report are to be incorporated.

**NORTHERN IRAQ** Kurdistan

This year, the Raif Badawi Award for courageous journalists went to a refugee radio station, supported by the STP, in Northern Iraq.

**SRI LANKA** Jaffna

Despite threats from the security forces, those affected by the region's militarisation spoke out about the problems that it has caused them, at an event marking the publication of an STP report.

# PERU

For several years, the STP has been observing the effects of the mining of raw materials on the rights of indigenous communities in Peru and drawing attention to the associated human rights violations. In 2016, the STP analysed the human rights situation surrounding the gold mining activities of the firm Minera Yanacocha S.R.L. in the northern province Cajamarca. The STP also documented the human rights situation of indigenous communities confronted with countless problems on a daily basis in the southeastern region Madre de Dios.



## Cajamarca: The Yanacocha gold firm and human rights violations

In 2016, as part of the No Dirty Gold!-campaign, the STP addressed the human rights situation in the Peruvian province Cajamarca, where the firm Minera Yanacocha S.R.L. runs South America's largest gold mine. Together with the local human rights organisation Grufides, the STP compiled a report that provided detailed documentation of the numerous wrongdoings surrounding the gold mining activities in this region: the most comprehensive report on such activities in Northern Peru to date. Once the report was published, the STP met with the deputy Swiss ambassador to Peru, the person in charge of human rights at Yanacocha and staff from the US embassy in Switzerland, so as to draw attention to the catastrophic situation.

 *"We know of numerous human rights violations, even deaths. For years, the mining company Minera Yanacocha S.R.L. has intimidated the population, which is suffering from abject poverty despite the gold rush"*

*Magdalena Urrejola, Campaign Manager, Business and Indigenous Rights.*

Due to the environmental pollution, human rights violations and use of force in connection with the gold mining, massive resistance against the mining activities built up in the affected communities, which was also supported by the STP. The planned Conga project, which was intended to replace the depleting mine Yanacocha, was put on hold during the course of the year, even though around 1.7 billion dollars had already been invested. This case shows how important it is, in all projects that encroach upon the living environment of indigenous peoples, to consult those affected in advance, as prescribed by international accords. Raw materials companies must not push ahead with their projects against the will of the local indigenous population. If they do not wish to put their investments at risk, it is imperative that they gain the consent of those affected.

## Dirty gold in Switzerland

The trail of dirty gold also leads to Switzerland: Firstly, the Swiss National Bank (SNB) has a holding in the world's second-largest gold firm, Newmont Mining Corporation from the USA, which is the majority shareholder in mining company Minera Yanacocha S.R.L. Although its share package is small, at 0.7 percent, it is putting over 156 million francs into co-financing a gold mining operation that repeatedly violates human rights. Secondly, Switzerland is a key purchaser of gold from Peru: around 154 tonnes of raw gold went to Swiss refineries in 2016, 20.6 tonnes of which (70 percent of Yanacocha's entire gold production) found its way to the refinery Valcambi SA in Balerna. UN guidelines stipulate that Valcambi must be able to guarantee that the gold comes from socially and ecologically compatible production, which is strongly contested in this case. Another large Swiss gold refinery has shown itself to be more cooperative and sought dialogue with the STP and other NGO representatives. The STP is campaigning for light to be shed on the alleged human rights violations committed in connection with gold mining in Peru, and for those responsible to be brought to justice. As a basic principle, such raw material projects and infrastructural projects should only be realised with the consent of the indigenous population. Companies like Yanacocha and its parent corporation Newmont Mining must act in compliance with human rights. Finally, the Swiss refinery Valcambi must also practise due diligence.



*The population's protests are often violently suppressed.*  
©Photo: STP

## The bleak human rights situation of indigenous peoples in Madre de Dios

In spring and autumn, the STP visited the region Madre de Dios in the southeast of the Peruvian Amazon, where numerous indigenous peoples live. The focus was on local research and on meeting the regional indigenous peoples' umbrella organisation FENAMAD (Federación Nativa del Rio Madre de Dios y Afluentes).



*Four men from the previously isolated Mashco Piro make contact with other communities on the riverbank.*

©Photo: FENAMAD

Although the region has manifold resources, including large gold deposits, there is an unusually high degree of poverty. On its visits to the affected communities, the STP found that the human rights situation is bleak. In the same areas, the state awards various usage rights to different players, instead of protecting the local population. The resulting conflicts lead to massive human rights violations, under which the indigenous communities suffer the most, as they are least capable of defending their rights. They are confronted with raids, land grabbing, unclear land-use terms and the health problems that arise from gold mining's heavy pollution of rivers. As they live in hard-to-reach areas, they have either no access or only insufficient access to employment, education, healthcare and clean drinking water.

**FENAMAD represents the interests of indigenous communities:** By means of workshops, negotiations with the relevant authorities and selective material aid, indigenous communities are cooperated with, so as to promote their own development. The STP supports FENAMAD in this undertaking. For instance, it organised a local workshop on human rights and indigenous rights, which 30 participants were able to benefit from.

## The STP at Baselworld 2016

In 2016, the STP was at Baselworld, the world's largest watch and jewellery fair, to draw attention to the downsides of the world of glitz and glamour. The STP approached visitors and exhibitors at the fair with the demand "NO DIRTY GOLD! Buy responsibly!" and a body-painting campaign. Consumers have the right to know the origins of the raw material from which their jewellery is made, because the production of raw materials like gold often involves violation of human rights and damage to the environment. The ones who suffer are often indigenous communities. The STP expects watch and jewellery companies to refrain in future from purchasing gold produced in ways that entail human rights violations or environmental pollution, to actively support the demand for gold that is obtained fairly and to make the origins of gold transparent.



● The STP was present at Baselworld 2016 with its NO DIRTY GOLD! campaign.  
©Photo: Nicole Huwyler



Around **154 tonnes** of raw gold went to Swiss refineries in 2016.



Worldwide, the jewellery and watch industry requires more than **50 percent** of the gold refined each year.



In 2016, **70 percent** of all Yanacocha's gold production (**20.6 tonnes**) found its way to the refinery Valcambi SA in Ticino.

## Participation in the UN Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

In mid-July, the ninth session of the UN Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples was held at the Palais des Nations in Geneva. The STP was also in attendance and obtained information about current UN-level developments at numerous meetings and side events. Above all, it also took the opportunity to enter into an exchange with a wide range of different representatives of indigenous peoples, national organisations, international organisations and embassies, making important contacts. For instance, there was a meeting with the delegation from the indigenous Mapuche of Chile.



● A young woman from the Yanomami of Brazil. ©Photo: Thomas Nilsson

 In 2015, over **99 percent** of Peru's proceeds from exports to Switzerland came from the purchase of gold.

 In the region Madre de Dios, at least **15 indigenous** communities still live in voluntary isolation.

 Peru was the world's **sixth-largest** gold producer in 2016.

# SRI LANKA

The STP sees the human rights situation in Sri Lanka as having worsened in 2016: torture is a daily occurrence, militarisation remains at a high level, and the security forces' monitoring and intimidation of civil society has intensified in comparison to the previous year. The STP lobbied for the observance of human rights in tourism projects, it analysed the effects of militarisation on the Jaffna Peninsula and it campaigned against sending vulnerable asylum seekers from Sri Lanka back to their home country while they are not safe there.



## Living in the shadow of the military

Even seven years after the end of the war in Sri Lanka, the military is systematically violating human rights on the Jaffna Peninsula according to the findings of a research report released by the STP and its partner organisation NAFSO (“National Fisheries Solidarity Movement”) at an October event in Jaffna. Prior threatening phone calls from the military deterred many people from attending. Nevertheless, just under a hundred affected people were present. Representatives from politics, the church, fishery unions and local authorities also took part. They were clearly pleased that the STP had called attention to the problems of militarisation in the report and they subsequently announced that they would campaign for the rights of displaced persons.

The report showed that the local population is still being monitored and intimidated. Due to the military occupation of large parts of the country, many farmers and fishers have lost access to the land and the sea. The military’s commercial activities in tourism and agriculture also take important sources of revenue away from the population. Tens of thousands of people still live under precarious conditions in camps, as internally displaced persons.

Due to the worrying human rights situation in the area, the STP is calling on the government of Sri Lanka to reduce the military presence in Jaffna, to stop the monitoring of the population and to bring the military’s commercial activities to an end. The government should also return the occupied areas to their former owners and help the internally displaced persons to establish their traditional livelihoods.



● Photo 1: Little girl in a resettlement area on the Jaffna Peninsula  
Photo 2: Dwelling in a camp for internally displaced persons on the Jaffna Peninsula  
©Photos: Yves Bowie, STP

## Migration accord despite alarming human rights situation

In autumn, Switzerland signed a migration accord with Sri Lanka. The STP criticises the fact that this does not even oblige the government of Sri Lanka to meet minimal requirements, such as the abolition of the draconian anti-terrorism law that allows people to be arrested without charge in Sri Lanka. At the same time, the human rights situation in Sri Lanka has worsened, as noted by the STP in a short report. For instance, a draft for a new anti-terrorism law has been made public: inflicting major damage on the economy or environment is now also to be defined as terrorism. This could, for example, also be applied to activists campaigning for economic, social and cultural human rights. The STP calls on Switzerland to adjust its asylum practice in light of the latest developments, to refrain from forced repatriation and to suspend the recently signed migration accord with Sri Lanka if the new anti-terrorism law comes into force. In addition, Switzerland must continue to guarantee protection of vulnerable asylum seekers.

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 **SRI LANKAS ARMEE EROBERT DEN TOURISMUS**, NZZ, 19.10.2016

 **ARYIA PUSHPAM KÄMPFT UM IHR LAND**, Mitenand, SRF 1, 26.06.2016



Around **20'000 square kilometres of land** on the Jaffna Peninsula is under military control.



According to government figures, there were **42'201 internally displaced persons** on the Jaffna Peninsula in June 2015.



In September 2015, there were **1536 internally displaced families** living in specially constructed camps in the Jaffna district alone.

## Local population as point of contact for tourism projects

The STP's 2015 tourism report showed the development of tourism in Sri Lanka to be violating human rights. For this reason, the STP, together with NAFSO, ran seven workshops in four regions of Sri Lanka last year. The goal was to strengthen the local inhabitants in terms of their rights and to show how they could profit from tourism themselves. Here, approximately 240 participants in all had their legal and political options explained to them, for defence against injustice. In addition, the STP organised three stakeholder meetings between the population and hoteliers. A February round table organised by the STP in Colombo was also attended by the national tourism authority. These activities have made quite a difference: Hoteliers now see the local population and the STP's partner organisation NAFSO as points of contact in relation to tourism issues and want to intensify cooperation. The tourism authority in Passikudah has also sought dialogue with fishers and promised them more protection and further meetings. For their part, the locals have been organising themselves more and acting with greater confidence.



*Workshops have helped to ensure that local fishers are better informed about their rights.*  
©Photo: Nicole Philipp

**i** As a result of war, there are **59'000 to 84'000 households headed by women** in Northeast Sri Lanka.

**i** At the workshops, the rights of the local population in the context of tourism projects were explained to a total of around **240 participants**.

**iii** In February 2016, there were at least **170 political prisoners** in detention in Sri Lanka.

**“I catch significantly fewer fish because of the surfers”**



● Francis Christopher Ranraj Croos's livelihood as a fisher is threatened by surf tourism.  
©Photo: Yves Bowie, STP

***Francis Christopher Ranraj Croos was not rich, but he and his family lived well off fishing. Until the kite surfers came and marked off a large section of the lagoon area for tourism. Since then, the catch rate has fallen so drastically that the family now struggles to get by.***

For generations, Francis Christopher Ranraj Croos's family has lived on Dutch Bay Island in Kalpitiya, in Sri Lanka's North-Western Province. “We always had a good catch rate and could generate enough income to live a decent life,” said the Catholic fisher at an STP workshop. “Until the kite surfers came.” Bitterly, he added: “Today, my catch rate has dropped sharply and I have difficulty feeding my family.”

## Kite surfers and fishers in conflict

The Kalpitiya region is increasingly being used for tourism: in kite-surfing circles, it is seen as a paradise, due to the fact that there is usually a good wind and the area offers the unique possibility of alternating between the Thillaidy Lagoon and the sea. Since numerous kite-surfing schools have opened, there have been frequent conflicts with fishers because, with the support of local authorities, four of these schools have marked off a two-kilometre-long area, where no fishing boats are allowed between 8 am and 5 pm. Since then, Francis Christopher Ranraj Croos has only been able to achieve a quarter of his previous catch rate.

## Fear of displacement

Since the war, the family has lived in temporary accommodation made from coconut leaves. The local authority has promised to build proper houses for this family and 350 other families, and provided 800,000 rupees per house for this purpose. However, the national tourism authority has prohibited construction of the houses. Francis Christopher Ranraj Croos believes there is an intention to drive away all residents of Dutch Bay Island and says: "If they want to drive us away, we will resist to the death."



*With our "Stop Ocean Grabbing" campaign, we support the cause of people who can no longer pursue their traditional vocation of fishing due to the plundering of the seas or the seizure of sea access. We tell the stories of affected Sri Lankans in our blog [www.oceangrabbing.ch](http://www.oceangrabbing.ch).*

# STOP ANTIZIGANISM

In 2016, the STP also campaigned against antiziganism in Switzerland and Kosovo. In Switzerland, it is fighting against discrimination and for acknowledgement of the Roma, Sinti and Yenish as national minorities. In Kosovo, it has campaigned for the rights of Roma, Ashkali and Balkan Egyptians caught in a vicious circle of migration. Last year, the Swiss Yenish and Sinti achieved a lot, but for the Roma, the overall situation unfortunately does not look so positive. This is one more reason to persist in this regard with the “Stop Antiziganism” campaign.



## A boost in processing the history of the “children of the country road”

The year 2016 marked the 30th anniversary of the Federal Council's apology for supporting the “Aid Organisation for Children of the Country Road”. To ensure that the systematic persecution of the Yenish is not forgotten, the STP held a memorial event, where protagonists from that era and the present day had a chance to speak. The question of how Switzerland deals with its minorities today was also discussed.

The counter-proposal to the Reparation Initiative was accepted by parliament in its autumn session, representing a milestone for those affected by compulsory social measures, including many Yenish. Furthermore, in response to the interpellation from Barbara Gysi (SP) in remembrance of the victims, the Federal Council confirmed that the problematic aspects of our history must continue to be remembered and said that it wants to assess a third-party initiative for construction of a memorial for the victims of the “Aid Organisation for Children of the Country Road”. This is a definite success for STP's campaign to ensure that this matter shall not be forgotten, conducted in cooperation with Yenish representatives.

A meeting between Yenish representatives, the STP and National Council President Christa Markwalder (FDP) was another achievement accomplished via the STP's lobbying for a processing of the history of the Yenish. Together, they were able to draw attention to the concerns of the Yenish, in the hope that parliament will do more for them in future.



*The STP held a panel discussion on “30 Years of Apology” with Yenish representatives.  
©Photo: Nicole Philipp*

## Yenish and Sinti celebrated acknowledgement

At September's Feckerchilbi in Bern, Federal Councillor Alain Berset met a demand from Yenish and Sinti by acknowledging their endonyms. In future, Yenish and Sinti will no longer be referred to with the vague term "travellers".

In the canton Bern, it was possible to celebrate another achievement for the itinerant Yenish and Sinti. In September, the Cantonal Parliament decided to set up three new transit sites for local Yenish and Sinti. This is a major achievement that has arisen from the tireless dedication of Yenish and Sinti organisations and their supporters.



Federal Councillor Alain Berset visited this year's Feckerchilbi in Bern. ©Photo: Andreas von Gunten / Radgenossenschaft Picture Archive

## Anti-Roma political sentiment has intensified

In 2016, the STP noted an intensification of the political and medial climate regarding Roma in Switzerland. In particular, this was reflected by an increase in Swiss politicians' openly racist statements about Roma, involving vilification of the entire minority, without Roma organisations having a chance to speak and without this being condemned by the public.

 **80'000 to 100'000** Roma live in Switzerland, most of whom have a Swiss passport.

 The "Aid Organisation for the Children of the Country Road" took **586 children away from their Yenish parents.**

 Around **40'000 to 50'000** Roma, Ashkali and Balkan Egyptians live in Kosovo, sometimes in degrading conditions.

For this reason, the STP, together with Swiss Roma organisations, filed two lawsuits on grounds of racism during the past year, against a Lyss communal councillor and a Biel cantonal councillor. At the same time, the STP was actively involved in the Working Group for Improving the Situation of the Yenish, Sinti and Roma, where it also campaigned for acknowledgement of the Roma as a national minority while, for instance, striving to provide a platform for the cultural work of the Roma.

## **Forced migration of Roma from Kosovo**

In 2015, an STP report showed that the situation of Roma who are forcibly repatriated to Kosovo from Western Europe is extremely precarious and leads to a vicious circle of migration. In 2016, the STP was able to talk about these results with various interest groups. In May 2016, for instance, it discussed the results locally with Roma organisations, so as to develop joint strategies for improving the situation of returnees. Also, at a meeting with representatives from Kosovo's Ministry of Internal Affairs, the STP raised the subject of the problems experienced by returnees. At the time, the Ministry of Internal Affairs was working on a new strategy for inclusion of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptians, into which the results of the report are to be incorporated. Government representatives, Roma organisations, embassies and international organisations all took part in a public panel discussion organised by the STP. The feedback on the report was very positive and the discussions showed that not only the Kosovan government, but also western states where Roma, Ashkali and Egyptians who have been granted temporary refuge for years are deported to Kosovo, must accept more responsibility.

The STP also presented the results of the report to members of the European Parliament in Brussels and was able to draw attention to the problem, together with a delegation of Roma representatives. It was also able to demonstrate the urgency of the matter in a talk with the UN Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues, Rita Izsák-Ndiaye, who promised to incorporate the topic into one of her next reports on the situation of minorities in humanitarian crises.



**Responsible Business Initiative (RBI):** In October, around 120'000 collected signatures in favour of the Responsible Business Initiative were submitted to the Federal Chancellery. The intention of this initiative is to ensure that Swiss companies are legally bound to integrate the protection of human rights and the environment into their business practices, because if human rights and the environment are threatened by commercial activities abroad, firms based in Switzerland also have a responsibility. This is why we, the STP, support the RBI. It is supported by a total of 80 organisations.



**Association for Crisis Assistance and Development Cooperation (WADI)** Since 1992, WADI has promoted self-help programmes in the Middle East: in Israel, Jordan and especially in Iraq. The STP assists in WADI projects that are mainly funded by Green Cross and the Roselo Foundation. In 2016, these contributions amounted to a good 250,000 francs. This support enabled continuation of, for example, a radio project, a child education project and campaigns against genital mutilation.



**Working Group (WG) Foreign Policy at the NGO Platform Human Rights:** The STP is part of the WG Foreign Policy, which is a coming-together of various non-governmental organisations (NGOs). This WG makes a civil-society-based contribution to improving Swiss foreign policy's orientation and coherence with regard to human rights. To this end, it is compiling a discussion paper that proposes improvements, intended to serve as a guiding framework in politics and administration.



**Alliance Against Racial Profiling:** This alliance is a network of activists, scientists and cultural workers of colour, as well as human rights organisations and experts, opposing institutional racism in the Swiss Police Corps. The STP is also part of this network and campaigns against submitting Yenish, Sinti and Roma to unjustified identity checks and vehicle checks.



**Advisory Board of the National Contact Point for the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises (NCP):** The STP is on the Advisory Board of the NCP for the OECD Guidelines as a representative of non-governmental organisations in Switzerland. It campaigns for making the complaints system more effective and also more accessible for minorities and indigenous peoples. The OECD Guidelines are recommendations on responsible entrepreneurial activity for multinational firms based in OECD countries. For instance, the Advisory Board is monitoring the procedure involving complaints from local communities in Indonesia against cement giant LafargeHolcim's violation of their land rights. By doing so, it wants to contribute to finding a peaceful solution to the conflict.



**Chechen Archiv:** The Chechen Archive went online in May 2016. It is the most significant video archive on the two Chechen Wars (1994-2009) and is located in Switzerland on the STP's premises. The Chechen Archive Association, consisting of the STP, PeaceWomen Across the Globe and Reporters Without Borders Switzerland, has restored, analysed and digitised these videos. The archive provides an important basis for coming to terms legally and historically with war crimes, for combating impunity and for making sure the past is not forgotten.



**NoDAPL petition directed at UBS and CS:** The STP has gathered around 6500 signatures to demand that these banks act with regard to human rights violations linked to their services and financial support. Thousands of indigenous people, sympathisers and activists have protested against the construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline near the Standing Rock Indian Reservation in the USA. Swiss banks UBS and CS have granted high credit lines and are managing shares for Energy Transfer, the family of companies responsible for construction of the pipeline. The STP has taken part in the protests and is in dialogue with the banks, calling for more responsibility regarding human rights.



## FINANCIAL REPORT

*The STP can look back on a successful year. A budgeted loss became a profit of CHF 46'725.60. Thanks to the solid equity capital base, liquidity is assured. Without generous support from our members, as well as from donors, foundations and institutions, our work would be impossible. The STP would like to take this opportunity to express immense gratitude for this support. The STP strives to use the available resources in an efficient, goal-oriented manner and to manage them economically.*

### PERFORMANCE REPORT

The STP's activities are focused on disseminating information, campaigning and implementing projects. To carry out this work, the STP depends on a sufficiently high number of members and donors. In 2016, the STP invested a total of **CHF 416'426.50** in fundraising activities. The recruitment of members and donors is an important fundraising measure and simultaneously serves to sensitise the public to the objectives of the organisation. New members are mainly recruited through street campaigns. At the end of 2016, the STP had about **13'600** aktive supporters (PY 12 500). For various campaigns, we received donations and contributions from public authorities, parishes and organisations.

The executive board met five times in 2016 and worked for about 250 non-remunerated hours for the STP.

#### The members of the executive board are:

**Ruth-Gaby Vermot-Mangold** president, elected until 2017

**Göpf Berwerger** (vice-president, elected until 2017)

**Sonja Beeli** (elected until 2017)

**Urs Zschokke** (elected until 2016)

**Theodora Peter** (elected until 2018)

Over the course of 2016, the STP permanently employed 18 people, including 6 interns and 1 apprentice. The internships normally last for 6–12 months and are remunerated with a net wage of CHF 1'000 at a workload of 80%.

The Society for Threatened Peoples Switzerland is the Swiss section of the Society for Threatened Peoples International. The purpose of the STP Switzerland is in line with the objectives of the STP International. Other sections of the STP International are located in Germany, Austria, South Tyrol/Italy, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Northern Iraq. The STP has further representatives in other countries.

The campaigns and projects were described in detail in the annual report.

The STP would specially like to thank all members, donors, foundations and public authorities for their generous support. Without you, our work would not be possible. To the members of the executive board, employees and interns, the STP expresses a profound thank you for your tireless commitment to human rights!

### Balance sheet as of 31 December 2016

<b>ASSETS</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
LIQUID ASSETS	911 412.26	779 411.75
OUTSTANDING ASSETS/RECEIVABLES	1 679.30	4 329.52
ACCRUED INCOME	13 041.95	28 688.95
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>926 133.51</b>	<b>812 430.23</b>
TANGIBLE ASSETS	2 861.00	5 251.00
<b>TOTAL CAPITAL ASSETS</b>	<b>2 861.00</b>	<b>5 251.00</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>928 994.51</b>	<b>817 681.23</b>

<b>LIABILITIES</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
TRADE PAYABLES	157 414.84	142 458.92
OTHER CURRENT LIABILITIES	216.65	8 000.00
ACCRUED EXPENSES / DEFERRED INCOME	31 101.00	25 073.74
<b>TOTAL BORROWED CAPITAL</b>	<b>188 732.49</b>	<b>175 532.66</b>
FUNDS	71 169.63	21 801.78
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<b>71 169.63</b>	<b>21 801.78</b>
ORGANISATION CAPITAL	622 366.79	351 026.26
NET PROFIT/LOSS	46 725.60	269 320.53
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>	<b>669 092.39</b>	<b>620 346.79</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>928 994.51</b>	<b>817 681.23</b>

## Income statement for 1 January 2016 to 31 December 2016

<b>INCOME</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
SALES REVENUE	1 631.75	3 018.55
MEMBERSHIP FEES AND DONATIONS	1 385 235.55	1 522 551.05
CONTRIBUTIONS	346 653.91	553 674.65
OTHER INCOME	3 088.05	2 990.20
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>1 736 609.26</b>	<b>2 082 234.45</b>

<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
CAMPAIGNS & PROJECTS	718 793.10	947 093.02
PERSONNEL EXPENSES	384 620.98	406 265.67
ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS	106 108.43	107 189.52
FUNDRAISING COSTS	416 426.50	341 032.12
DEPRECIATIONS	5 968.00	5 749.00
<b>OPERATING RESULT</b>	<b>1 631 917.01</b>	<b>1 807 329.33</b>
<b>FINANCIAL RESULT</b>	<b>104 692.25</b>	<b>274 905.12</b>
FINANCIAL INCOME	-6 578.80	-3 264.69
EXTRAORDINARY EXPENSES	0.00	-4 987.50
<b>EARNINGS BEFORE CHANGE OF FUNDS CAPITAL</b>	<b>98 113.45</b>	<b>266 652.93</b>
TOTAL FUNDS CAPITAL	-51 387.85	2 667.60
<b>ANNUAL RESULT</b>	<b>46 725.60</b>	<b>269 320.53</b>

## Statement of changes in capital

2015	Opening balance	Earmarked allocation	Free STP fund allocation	Internal fund transfers	Utilisation (expenditure)	Annual inflow / outflow	Closing balance
<b>RESOURCES FROM FUNDS</b>							
CHECHNYA ARCHIVE FUND	24 469.38				-2 667.60	-2 667.60	21 801.78
<b>TOTAL EARMARKED FUNDS</b>	<b>24 469.38</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>-2 667.60</b>	<b>-2 667.60</b>	<b>21 801.78</b>
<b>RESOURCES FROM SELF-FINANCING</b>							
ORGANISATION CAPITAL	351 026.26						351 026.26
ANNUAL PROFIT			269 320.53				269 320.53
<b>TOTAL ORGANISATION CAPITAL</b>	<b>351 026.26</b>						<b>620 346.79</b>

2016							
<b>RESOURCES FROM FUNDS</b>							
CHECHNYA ARCHIVE FUND	21 801.78				-11 928.15	-11 928.15	9 873.63
ITINERANT ROMA IN SWITZERLAND FUND		35 000.00		0.00		35 000.00	35 000.00
DOMARI FUND		21 296.00				21 296.00	21 296.00
TURKEY FUND		5 000.00				5 000.00	5 000.00
<b>TOTAL EARMARKED FUNDS</b>	<b>21 801.78</b>	<b>61 296.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>-11 928.15</b>	<b>49 367.85</b>	<b>71 169.63</b>
<b>RESOURCES FROM SELF-FINANCING</b>							
CONTINUING EDUCATION FUND			2 020.00			2 020.00	2 020.00
ORGANISATION CAPITAL	620 346.79					0.00	620 346.79
ANNUAL PROFIT			46 725.60			46 725.60	46 725.60
<b>TOTAL ORGANISATION CAPITAL</b>	<b>620 346.79</b>						<b>669 092.39</b>

## APPENDIX TO THE FINANCIAL REPORT 2016

### General accounting principles

The STP's financial reporting complies with the Swiss Financial Reporting Standard (SWISS GAAP FER) and the Swiss Code of Obligations. This financial report represents the actual situation regarding our assets, finances and profits.

### Accounting & evaluation principles

Book keeping is conducted in Swiss francs. Generally, the principle of acquisition/production costs applies, which complies with the principle of item-by-item valuation of assets and liabilities.

#### Foreign Currencies

Business transactions in EUR were booked at an exchange rate of CHF 1.10 (PY CHF 1.05), those in USD at an exchange rate of CHF 1.00 (PY CHF 0.95095). Financial transactions from or to accounts in CHF were booked at the current rate. Business transactions in other currencies were calculated at the current exchange rate. Just as in the previous year, the tax rate of the Federal Tax Administration was used to account for EUR and USD funds as of December 2016.

#### Prepaid Expenses

Accrued income consists of receivables from social security institutions as well as rents paid in advance (PY plus project salaries and campaigning expenses paid in advance).

	<b>1.1.2015</b>	<b>Accrual</b>	<b>Depreciation</b>	<b>31.12.2015</b>
FIXTURES AND FURNISHINGS	500.00	0.00	499.00	1.00
COMPUTER SYSTEM, IT	10 500.00	0.00	5 250.00	5 250.00
	<b>1.1.2016</b>	<b>Accrual</b>	<b>Depreciation</b>	<b>31.12.2016</b>
MOBILIAR, EINRICHTUNG	1.00	0.00	0.00	1.00
EDV / IT	5 250.00	3 578.00	5 968.00	2 860.00

### **Fixed Assets**

The fixed assets include the office equipment and computer system. As in the previous year, depreciations were accounted for on a linear basis for a life cycle of 5 years. The activation limit is set at CHF 3'000. The fire insurance value of tangible assets amounts to CHF 200'000 (PY CHF 100'000).

### **Short-Term Borrowed Capital**

The short-term borrowed capital includes various current payments, as well as fundraising agency fees of CHF 57'821.05 (PY CHF 79'405.58) and project contributions owed to WADI amounting to EUR 47'445 (PY USD 21'802.45). An erroneous return transfer of EUR 17'500 from the bank is also accounted for here.

### **Accrued Expenses/Deferred Income**

The reported overtime and annual leave credit were calculated individually for each employee. The co-director renounced part of his overtime credit. This part was not accounted for.

### **Funds**

The **Chechnya Archive Fund** was debited with the Chechnya Archive cost centre's surplus expenditure and a lump sum for the STP's administration costs. A final payment of CHF 9'000 was received from Pro Victimis. In addition to the running costs, the extra expense of uploading the archive to the Internet was also incurred during the reporting year. Project contributions from public authorities and from the Federation of Migros Cooperatives were set aside in the **Itinerant Roma in Switzerland Fund**. This project is to be carried out in 2017.

For the 2017 groundwork pertaining to Domari in the Middle East, the received supporting contributions were set aside in the **Domari Fund**. In 2016, we pledged a project contribution of CHF 5'000 to another organisation. Due to war-related turmoil, the project could not be launched. The agreed sum was set aside in the **Turkey Fund**.

### **Organisation Capital**

In order to ensure continuing education of employees, the **Continuing Education Fund** was established. This is augmented by the unexhausted budget item Continuing Education.

The annual profit of CHF 46'725.60 is **allocated to the organisation capital**, which now amounts to CHF 669'092.39 (PY CHF 620'346.79).

## Guarantee and Leasing Obligations

No such obligations exist on the balance sheet date.

## Remuneration to Directors

A co-directorship has been in place since October 2016, with the two co-directors each having an 80% workload. The wage bill for the director from January to September and the co-directors from October onwards amounts to a total of CHF 115'719.50. The members of the board receive neither attendance fees nor any other form of remuneration.

## Connections to Associated Organisations and Persons

The STP Switzerland is a section of the STP International, which is situated in Göttingen (Germany). It is not affiliated with any other organisations.

## Income statement

The following organisations have considerably supported us:

CONTRIBUTIONS FROM ORGANISATIONS	2016	2015
GREEN CROSS WADI PROJECT	257 858	536 426
REFORMED PARISH OF SISSACH ROMA PROJECT IN KOSOVO	5 000	5 000
REFORMED PARISH OF KREUZLINGEN DONATION		3 000
SOCIETY FOR THREATENED PEOPLES AUSTRIA CONTRIBUTION TO RESEARCH IN PERU		3 150
FEDERATION OF MIGROS COOPERATIVES	5 000	
HEKS FISHER WORKSHOP IN SRI LANKA	5 500	
ROM. CATH. GENERAL PARISH OF BERN FISHER PROJECT IN SRI LANKA	5 000	
HEKS FISHER WORKSHOP IN SRI LANKA	5 000	
PRO VICTIMIS CHECHNYA ARCHIVE	9 000	
PRO VICTIMIS DOMARI, EUR 18,000	19 296	
EVANG. REF. SYNODAL ASSOCIATION OF BERN DOMARI	2 000	

CONTRIBUTIONS FROM PUBLIC AUTHORITIES	2016	2015
GS-FDHA, SERVICE FOR COMBATING RACISM PANEL ON ANTIZIGANISM		2 500
GS-FDHA, SERVICE FOR COMBATING RACISM ROMA IN DER SCHWEIZ 2017	10 000	
FEDERAL OFFICE OF CULTURE ROMA IN DER SCHWEIZ 2017	20 000	

### **Gratuitous services**

The company Proffix AG provided us with IT services worth approximately CHF 15'000 during conversion of the PostFinance debiting system and individual software adjustments.

## **Campaign and project expenditures**

### **Indirect Campaign and Project Expenditures**

The allocation of personnel expenses is based on the timekeeping sheets of employees. The allocation of administrative costs was done accordingly.

### **Personnel Expenses/Number of Full-Time Positions**

The employees of the STP have the possibility to work part-time. 18 individuals with a workload of between 30% and 80% were employed in the reporting year (PY 14 individuals). This corresponds to an annual average of 7.9 (PY 7.75) full-time positions (including interns and apprentices). Not included here is a cleaner, working for approximately 3.5 hours per week.

### **STP International**

A membership fee of EUR 500 for the STP International was deferred (PY EUR 500).

## **The organisation's situation**

The accounting result is much better than was budgeted for. This is mainly due to fundraising expenditure that did not fully eventuate, savings in personnel expenses and the delayed relaunch of the website, which cannot be realised until 2017. Thanks to the good accounting result, it was possible to improve the equity capital base, thus ensuring liquidity for the time being. However, the competitive donor market forces us to keep looking for new sources of revenue and to use resources economically.

*@ The complete annual financial statement and audit report can be ordered from the STP or downloaded from the website: [www.gfbv.ch/de/uber\\_uns/jahresbericht](http://www.gfbv.ch/de/uber_uns/jahresbericht).*



1. Angela Mattli (STP), together with Uschi Waser and Sandra Gerzner (l to r) at Bundeshausplatz, calls for the history of the Yenish to be taught in schools. 2. Memorial event on the 30th anniversary of the apology for the injustice against the Yenish. 3. Panel discussion with authorities, politicians and nomads at Feckerchilbi. 4. Body-painting campaign against dirty gold at Baselworld. 5. Martin Wanner (STP, right) with FENAMAD President Julio Cusurichi (middle) and colleagues on a visit to Peru. 6. Magdalena Urrejola (STP, left) with FENAMAD President Julio Cusurichi (right) in Madre de Dios, Peru. 7. Magdalena Urrejola (STP, right) with members of the indigenous community El Pilar in Peru.



**8.** Panel discussion in Prishtina on forced migration of Roma, Ashkali and Balkan Egyptians from Kosovo. **9.** Workshop for strengthening the rights of fishers in Kuchchaveli, Sri Lanka. **10.** Yves Bowie (STP, right) with the coordinator of the World Forum for Fisher Peoples in Sri Lanka. **11.** Workshop for strengthening the rights of fishers in Kuchchaveli, Sri Lanka. **12.** Protest in Arugam Bay, Sri Lanka, against land grabbing for tourism development. **13.** Handing over the signatures for the Responsible Business Initiative at Bundesplatz. **14.** Declaration of solidarity with Standing Rock against the Dakota Access Pipeline in front of UBS in Zurich.



**Ruth-Gaby Vermot-Mangold**  
PRESIDENT



**Göpf Berweger**  
VICE-PRESIDENT



**Christoph Wiedmer**  
CO-DIRECTOR

**CAMPAIGNS**



**Angela Mattli**  
CAMPAIGN MANAGER  
MINORITIES & DISCRIMINATION



**Magdalena Urrejola Balçak**  
CAMPAIGN MANAGER  
BUSINESS & INDIGENOUS RIGHTS  
*Until November 2016*



**Yves Bowie**  
CAMPAIGN MANAGER  
SRI LANKA



**Sonja Schrago**  
INTERN: CAMPAIGNS & PROJECTS  
*March to May 2016*



**Christiaan Meijer**  
INTERN: CAMPAIGNS & PROJECTS  
*Until January 2016*



**Martin Wanner**  
INTERN: BUSINESS &  
INDIGENOUS RIGHTS,  
CAMPAIGN MANAGER AD INTERIM  
*Since May 2016*



**Lisa Sollberger**  
INTERN: MINORITIES &  
DISCRIMINATION CAMPAIGN  
*Since November 2016*

**COMMUNICATION**



**Nicole Huwyler**  
MANAGER OF COMMUNICATION  
& FUNDRAISING  
*Until April 2016*



**Tania Brügger Marquez**  
GRAPHIC DESIGNER



**Sara Ryser**  
INTERN: COMMUNICATION  
*Until August 2016*

## BOARD



**Sonja Beeli-Zimmermann**



**Theodora Peter**



**Urs Zschokke**

*Until May 2016*

## CO-DIRECTORSHIP



**Erika Lerch**

MANAGER OF FINANCE & SERVICES  
CO-DIRECTOR

## COMMUNICATION



**Dominique Schärer**  
COMMUNICATION MANAGER  
*Since August 2016*



**Dario Schai**  
FUNDRAISING  
*Since May 2016*



**Lisa Schirinzi**  
FINANCE & SERVICES  
*Until September 2016*



**Anita Straubhaar**  
ADMINISTRATION MEMBER  
*Since October 2016*



**Nahom Andemicael**  
FINANCE & SERVICES  
*Apprentice*



**Angela Schweizer**  
INTERN: COMMUNICATION  
*Since September 2016*



*“The STP strives to ensure that people can play a role in the decision-making where they live. That is why I support it.”*

*Maya Graf, National Councillor*

### **WITH THE STP FOR HUMAN RIGHTS**

The Society for Threatened Peoples (STP) is an international human rights organisation working for the protection of persecuted minorities and indigenous peoples. The STP documents human rights violations, raises public awareness and represents the interests of affected communities before authorities and decision makers. It supports local initiatives aimed at improving the human rights situation of minorities and indigenous peoples, working nationally and internationally with other organisations and individuals that are pursuing similar goals. The STP has consultative status at both the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and the Council of Europe.



### **GET ACTIVE – SUPPORT US!**

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

Register at: [www.gfbv.ch/aktiv\\_werden](http://www.gfbv.ch/aktiv_werden)

Thank you very much!