



**SOCIETY FOR
THREATENED
PEOPLES**

ANNUAL REPORT

2015

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EDITORIAL

Dear members and sympathisers of the STP

One of our core functions is to support minorities in Switzerland and to call upon the Swiss government to recognise Roma, Sinti and Yenish and to enforce their equality. On International Romani Day, a dedicated group of Yenish, Sinti and Roma took their demands to the streets and requested binding measures to improve their living conditions. The STP supported their claims with a campaign. A few months later, the government responded to the concerns: it agreed to a better representation of travellers in state institutions and promised to provide more permanent and transit sites for the travelling minorities.

At the beginning of the year, we called attention to the human rights violations caused by the tourism industry in Sri Lanka. We urged Swiss travel agencies to better review their Sri Lankan partners and some of them consented to tackle the problems. The realisation is slowly sinking in that tourism can only be desirable and justifiable if it is in line with human rights.

The business with illegal gold has continuously kept us busy. By virtue of our research and confidential information, we could prove that Swiss refineries have been buying and processing illegal gold from Peru for years – and partially keep doing so to this day. Our exposure of human rights abuses, lawlessness and violence as well as the immense destruction of the environment sparked great public interest and we increased the pressure on the refineries to the effect that Swiss refineries stopped importing gold from some of the worst gold producers.

The streets are not paved with gold and money – just as in previous years, we allocated our resources efficiently and were able to stay economical.



Christoph Wiedmer
Director



Ruth-Gaby Vermot-Mangold
President



CAMPAIGNS & PROJECTS

The Society for Threatened Peoples Switzerland (STP) is an independent international human rights organisation that supports minorities and indigenous peoples. It informs and sensitises the public about human rights violations and represents the interests of minorities and indigenous peoples in dealings with authorities and decision-makers.

In 2015, the STP focused its activities on fighting antiziganism in Switzerland and Kosovo, the new government and the human rights abuses caused by the tourism industry in Sri Lanka, the role of Swiss refineries pertaining to illegal gold mining in Peru and the circle of enforced migration of Roma from Kosovo. Learn more about these topics on the following pages.

RUMBLINGS IN THE PRESS – MEDIA COVERAGE ABOUT THE STP



26 February 2015 > 10vor10

DECEPTIVE PARADISE

10vor10 reported about our Sri Lanka campaign on 26 February. Over and over again, the tourism industry is responsible for human rights violations in the South Asian country. 10vor10 report (in German): <http://www.srf.ch/play/tv/10vor10/video/truegerisches-paradies?id=dc6438a0-aa39-4603-82b4-a3e737cc9d1b/>

More about our Sri Lanka campaign on page 12.



8 April 2015 > Radio Report

STOP DISCRIMINATION – RESPECT FOR AND RECOGNITION OF ROMA IN SWITZERLAND

On International Romani Day (8 April), we demanded respect for and recognition of Yenish, Sinti and Roma in Switzerland. In addition to numerous newspaper articles, we could speak up about the issue on Radio Top. Radio Top report (in German): <http://www.toponline.ch/welt/detail/art/ngo-fordern-erkennung-fuer-roma-in-der-schweiz-001683511>

More about our Stop Antiziganism campaign on page 18.



27 April 2015 > Newspaper Article

DEPORTED TAMIL BACK IN SWITZERLAND

On 27 April, we celebrated a success: the Tamil father of a family, who was deported to Sri Lanka in 2013, was finally able to move back to Switzerland. The NZZ was one of many papers covering this topic. NZZ article (in German): <http://www.nzz.ch/schweiz/aktuelle-themen/asyl-ausgeschaffter-tamile-zurueck-in-der-schweiz-1.18530700>

More about our Sri Lanka campaign on page 12.



2 June 2015 > Newspaper Article

MONEY LAUNDERING PROCEEDINGS AGAINST TICINO GOLD REFINERY DISMISSED

We were indignant when we learned in June that the money laundering proceedings and the proceedings for aiding and abetting war crimes against the Swiss refinery Argor Heraeus had been dismissed. As many as 45 articles were published about this scandal in various publications and on websites including swissinfo.ch <http://www.swissinfo.ch/ger/geldwaeschereiverfahren-gegen-tessiner-goldraffinerie-eingestellt/41465200>

More about our No Dirty Gold! campaign on page 6.



7 October 2015 > Kassensturz

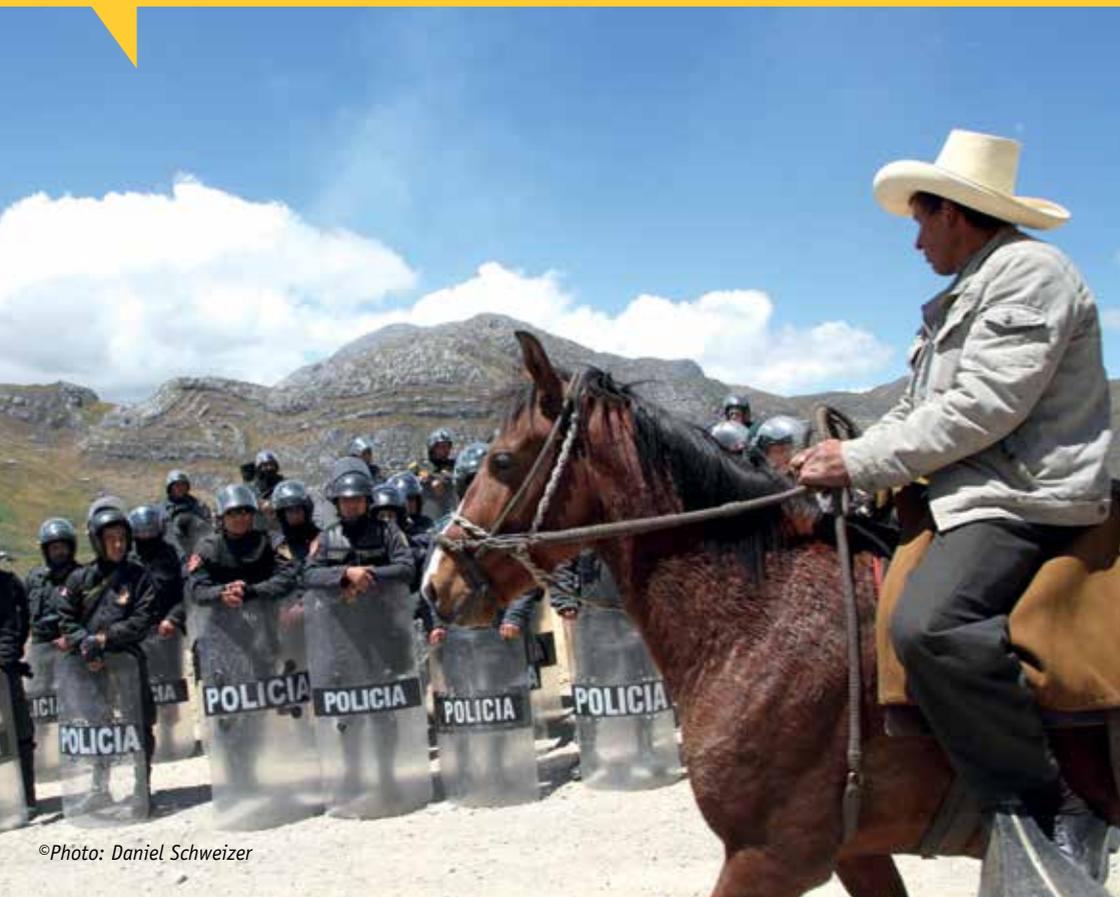
DIRTY GOLD – SWISS FIRMS CONDONE OVEREXPLOITATION

It is unbelievable that Swiss refineries have bought illegal gold from Peru for years! An opinion shared by “Kassensturz”, which reported about our No Dirty Gold! campaign on 6 October. Kassensturz report (in German): <http://www.srf.ch/konsum/themen/umwelt-und-verkehr/die-dreckige-geschichte-hinter-dem-glaenzenden-gold>

More about our No Dirty Gold! campaign on page 6.

NO DIRTY GOLD!

Since 2011, the STP has shed light on the gold business, the refining of gold and the role of Switzerland in the global gold supply chain. On one hand, the STP aims to uncover direct and indirect human rights violations entailed in the production of gold. On the other hand, it intends to sensitise the general public about these issues. To prevent human rights violations, all actors along the gold supply chain have to take responsibility: from the producers of gold to the refineries, the manufacturing industry and the end consumers.



The activities of the STP focus on the human rights violations associated with gold mining in Peru. The STP is also concerned about the significance of Switzerland in the gold business, particularly the role of Swiss refineries. About 50% of the global gold supply is refined in Switzerland and four of the nine largest gold refineries are situated here: Metalor Technologies in Neuchâtel, Valcambi in Balerna, PAMP in Castel San Pietro and Argor Heraeus in Mendrisio. All of these refineries have already been implicated in scandals due to human rights violations related to the production of gold.

FOCUS ON PERU

Switzerland imports about 50% of all the gold that is mined in Peru. In Peru, gold is extracted in large-scale mines as well as by innumerable artisanal and small-scale miners. Large-scale mines provide about 60% of Peru's gold, while the production of artisanal and small-scale miners amounts to about 40%. Industrial mining often happens without the consent of the local population and pollutes the environment. In addition to that, artisanal and small-scale mining is also related to precarious labour conditions, crime and misery. Regardless of whether people follow the gold rush or oppose mining activities and fight for their rights, they are threatened, pursued and criminalised.

VIOLENCE CAUSED BY YANACocha GOLD MINE

Since 2011, the largest gold mine in South America, Yanacocha, has been repeatedly responsible for cases of environmental pollution, human rights violations and violence. Because the gold reserves in the current mine are slowly getting depleted, Yanacocha is planning an extension, namely the new mining project Conga. However, the local population has not been consulted appropriately and is strongly opposed to the project. A situation that led to bloody clashes between protesters and security forces in November 2011 as well as in July 2012. Later it turned out that the local police had acted on behalf of Yanacocha.



**Switzerland imports
50% of Peru's
gold production.**

These violent incidents have either not been investigated properly, or not been investigated at all. As long as the activities of multinational companies are causing human rights violations – like the criminalisation of protesters, unlawful arrests or even deaths – the STP will take a stand for the rights of indigenous peoples and demand the investigation of human rights violations. We call upon the Peruvian government to ensure the safety of its population. But the onus is also on mining companies, like Yanacocha and its parent company Newmont Mining, to adhere to human rights standards. Lastly, the Swiss refinery Valcambi has to meet its due diligence obligations too, as it refines about 70 % of Yanacocha’s gold.

GLOSSARY

Industrial or large-scale mining

Normally, industrial mines are operated by transnational companies. Large-scale mines mobilise considerable amounts of capital, heavy machinery, cutting-edge technology and employ a large work force. Industrial mining provides about 80-85 % of gold mined globally.

Artisanal and small-scale mining

Formal or informal artisanal and small-scale miners employ rather simple or traditional methods to extract and process gold. Their mining technique is extremely labour intensive, since their access to capital, mechanisation and technology is limited. They use manual labour and simple tools and methods, but no explosives or heavy machinery. Artisanal and small-scale miners produce about 15-20 % of gold mined globally.

Illegal gold

Gold that has been extracted by artisanal and small-scale miners, which, in addition to not possessing any mining concessions, also had extracted the gold in areas where mining is explicitly forbidden like, for example, on archaeological sites or in nature and indigenous reserves.

Dirty gold

Gold sourced from mining sites which directly or indirectly cause human rights violations and/or heavily pollute the environment.

THE BATTLE OF MÁXIMA ACUÑA DE CHAUPE

Máxima Acuña de Chaupe is still fighting vigorously against Yanacocha for her land. The two parties have been in a legal dispute since 2011. While the Chaupes base their claim on a deed of ownership from 1994, Yanacocha wants to enforce a sales contract which allegedly includes the plot of land in question. Although the court of appeal in Cajamarca ruled in favour of the Chaupe family in December 2014, they are still being harassed on behalf of the gold mine. For example, their right to use the access road leading to the property is denied and their animals are taken away.

The STP kept supporting the fight of the Chaupe family throughout 2015 and will continue to do so until Yanacocha is finally held accountable. Our long-term goal is the effective implementation of the *Free, Prior and Informed Consent* (FPIC) which obliges all commodity companies to consult with all affected communities about prospective mining projects before the initiation of the activities.

*“I am not going away
from here, I belong
here. I will fight for
my land until I die.”*

*Máxima Acuña de Chaupe,
small-scale farmer and
human rights activist.
Photo: © Grufides*



DEALINGS IN ILLEGAL GOLD – SWISS REFINERY METALOR UNDER SUSPICION

In October we uncovered that two Swiss refineries, PAMP and Metalor, had bought and processed illegal gold from Peru for years – PAMP until 2012 and Metalor at least until 2013. In all likelihood, Metalor is sourcing illegal gold from Peru to this day. Illegal gold mining has serious consequences for the South American country, as it goes hand in hand with human rights violations, environmental pollution, money laundering, tax evasion, violence, crime and misery. Whether or not illegal or dirty gold is traded on the world market mainly comes down to the gold refineries.

Therefore, the STP calls upon the Swiss refineries to take action and demands rigorous due diligence procedures as well as disclosure of the results of these procedures and of their gold suppliers. In addition, we ask Switzerland to adopt due diligence obligations for refineries and to enhance transparency in the commodity trade. Further, the STP demands that Peru put the protection of human rights above economic interests, provide accountability mechanisms and access to effective remedies for human rights violations, effectively implement the right to consultation, participation and *Free, Prior and Informed Consent* (FPIC), as well as facilitating the process of formalising informal gold miners and fostering alternative economic activities.



STP Report: “The Business with Illegal Gold”
Available at www.gfbv.ch/gold



4 of the 9 largest gold refineries are situated in Switzerland.



Artisanal and small-scale miners provide 40% of the gold mined in Peru.



The Yanacocha gold mine has been responsible for human rights violations.

METALOR'S REACTION

Immediately after the STP published its report, Metalor launched a review of its Peruvian supplier. Although the refinery continues to deny the acquisition of illegal gold, this reaction can be seen as a small success.



*The refinery Metalor Technologies in Marin-Epagnier, Neuchâtel.
Photo: © Society for Threatened Peoples,
Nicole Huwyler*

*ine has repeatedly
uman rights viola-*



*Máxima Acuña de Chaupe is still fighting
against the large-scale Yanacocha goldmine.*



*Scandalous! Swiss refineries have processed
illegal gold from Peru for years!*

SRI LANKA

Sri Lanka is a country full of contradictions. On the one hand, it is a booming travel destination for tourists. On the other hand, the country is still recovering from its 26-year civil war with war crimes that remain unaccounted for, while its human rights record is worrisome at best. In January 2015, Maithripala Sirisena was unexpectedly elected as new president. Unfortunately, not much has changed about the precarious human rights situation since the change of government.



The STP's Sri Lanka campaign has three main focal points: firstly, mitigating the human rights violations caused by the tourism sector; secondly, urging Switzerland not to repatriate Sri Lankan refugees as long as they are not safe in their home country; and thirdly, battling the culture of impunity in Sri Lanka.

HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN THE SUNSHINE PARADISE

In Sri Lanka, tourism sector development leads to systematic human rights violations: fishermen are denied access to the sea, land is confiscated, the local population is – if at all – not appropriately informed about prospective tourism projects and it barely benefits from tourism. Yet, the Sri Lankan government actively promotes Sri Lanka as a tourism destination that has returned to normality and everyday life. The STP report *Dark Clouds over the Sunshine Paradise* published in February demonstrates how misleading this propagated picture really is.

The STP collaborates with Swiss and German travel agencies, in order to improve their human rights due diligence obligations in Sri Lanka. In addition, we urge the new Sri Lankan government to revise its tourism strategy, to enforce existing laws and regulations as well as to protect its population – including all minorities – from human rights abuses. Economic development cannot go hand in hand with human rights violations, land expropriation and displacement.



STP Report "Dark Clouds over the Sunshine Paradise" available at: http://www.gfbv.ch/de/kampagnen___projekte/tourismus.cfm

WORKSHOPS WITH FISHERMEN

Oftentimes, the tourism industry in Sri Lanka has negative ramifications on the local population, since their land gets taken away to make room for tourism projects and their access to the sea is denied completely or severely restricted. Since the local population depends on fishery, it is at risk of losing its livelihood – or has lost it already. The STP, in collaboration with the *National Fisheries Solidarity Movement* (NAFSO), organised workshops with fishermen to educate them about their rights in Kuchchaveli, Passikudah, Jaffna and Kalpitiya. The goal is to strengthen civil society in such a way as to enable them to defend themselves against land confiscations and human rights violations caused by tourism projects.

«Virtually nothing has changed for the Tamil minority: the Terrorism Prevention Act is still in force, Tamil political prisoners are still in detention and the level of militarisation in the north and east is still high..»
Yves Bowie, STP Campaign Manager

100 DAYS AFTER THE CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT

Shortly after the election, Sri Lanka's new president, Maithripala Sirisena, published his *100 Day Work Programme*, claiming to implement it within his first 100 days of office. The STP has observed the development in Sri Lanka closely and analysed Sirisena's first 100 days from a human rights perspective. Although some achievements regarding human rights have indeed been made, not much has changed for the Tamil population. Civilians continue to be abducted, tortured or put under general suspicion of terrorism, while militarisation is still high in the north and east. Moreover, the new government appointed Jagath Dias – an alleged war criminal – as the new army chief of staff.

DEPORTED TAMIL BACK IN SWITZERLAND

We had reason to celebrate in April: a Tamil, who had been deported in August 2013, was finally able to move back to Switzerland. This incident clearly demonstrates that for Tamils, who took refuge in Switzerland, it is not safe to return to Sri Lanka: the father of a family had been arrested immediately upon his arrival. Later, the *State Secretariat for Migration* (SEM) had to admit that he never should have been deported. The SEM had lifted the ban on deporting Tamils in 2014. Since then, Tamils are being forcibly repatriated again. However, it is still not safe for them to return to Sri Lanka, as they are put under a general suspicion of terrorism and therefore are at risk of being abducted and tortured. In 2015, just as in previous years, the STP urged the SEM to stick to its restrained deportation practice.



STP Report "Minority Rights in Sri Lanka: Progress or Blind Spot?" Available at: http://assets.gfbv.ch/downloads/sri_lanka_report_100days.pdf

WAR MEMORIALS SPONSORED BY HOLCIM

In May, the STP uncovered a scandal: the Swiss cement company, Holcim, had teamed up with the Sri Lankan army over the past years and had provided cement for propaganda war memorials. Holcim supplied the material for propaganda plates as well as for a war museum. In addition to that, the company helped develop a training programme of a so-called “rehabilitation camp” for former LTTE members and their relatives between 2011 and 2014. Evidently, serious human rights violations have been committed in this rehabilitation camp.

Subsequently, the STP asked Holcim to consistently implement its human rights due diligence obligations. The pressure of the STP on Holcim was effective: by the end of May, the cement company had removed the military propaganda plates and promised to never again collaborate with the army of any country.



● After the STP had uncovered Holcim’s sponsorship scandal, the company had the lettering removed. Photo: © Society for Threatened Peoples, Yves Bowie



The tourism industry in Sri Lanka is responsible for grave human rights violations.



The STP organised training and mobilisation workshops for fishermen whose livelihood is at risk.



Change of government: unfortunately, 100 days under the rule of Sirisena hardly improved the situation of Sri Lanka’s minorities.

INVESTIGATION OF THE WAR CRIMES IN SRI LANKA

The investigation of the war crimes and human rights abuses, which were committed in the final stage of the civil war in Sri Lanka, is still pending. Whilst the *UN High Commissioner for Human Rights* recommends establishing a hybrid court under Sri Lankan and international jurisdiction, Sri Lanka would like to investigate the crimes in a domestic court. However, under exclusively domestic jurisdiction, the investigation might turn out to be nothing more than a sham trial. Sri Lanka does not have the means to sufficiently protect the witnesses of war crimes and human rights violations from retaliatory acts such as arrests, abductions and torture. Hence, many witnesses are not willing to testify in a domestic trial.

In October, the *UN Human Rights Council* issued a resolution, which – among others – was co-sponsored by Sri Lanka. Contrary to the report of the *UN High Commissioner for Human Rights*, however, the resolution only demands some vague international participation, which was a huge disappointment for the victims. To advocate for the investigation to happen in a hybrid court and not solely under the jurisdiction of Sri Lanka, the STP actively engaged in lobbying activities by co-organising a press conference and a side event at the *UN Human Rights Council* in 2015.



Success! A deported Tamil could finally move back to Switzerland in April.



Scandalous! The Swiss company Holcim has sponsored war memorials!



The investigation of the war crimes has to occur with international participation for the victims to finally experience justice.

STOP ANTIZIGANISM

The STP has been committed to contesting antiziganism in Switzerland and Kosovo for several years. In Switzerland, it lobbies in favour of respecting and recognising Roma, Sinti and Yenish as national minorities and calls attention to their concerns. In Kosovo, the STP focuses on fostering young Roma activists as well as on defying the return policies of Western Europe, due to which thousands of Roma, Ashkali and Balkan Egyptians are forced into an ongoing circle of migration.



Roma are a minority in Switzerland which often is exposed to prejudices and discrimination. Although Roma have been a part of Switzerland for 600 years, they are still subjected to targeted racial profiling. Racist stereotypes and stigmatisation by the police as well as the media and in politics are prevalent. Roma have a culture and language of their own and are well integrated in Switzerland. The vast majority follows a sedentary lifestyle. Although most Roma possess a Swiss passport, they are not represented at all on political bodies and extra-parliamentary commissions.

INTERNATIONAL ROMANI DAY

To take a stand against antiziganism, the STP – together with Roma activists – organised a photo campaign in front of the Parliament on 8 April, the *International Romani Day*. An open letter, addressed to the former Federal President, Simonetta Sommaruga, accompanied the photo campaign to also make a political statement. Both the photo campaign and the open letter demanded cultural recognition and respect for Yenish, Sinti and Roma in Switzerland, measures to fight antiziganism within public authorities, facilitation of political participation and increased commitments to provide more transit sites for foreign, travelling Roma as well.



Although Roma have been a part of Switzerland for 600 years, they are still subjected to targeted racial profiling.

PANEL DISCUSSION: ANTIZIGANISM – SOCIALLY ACCEPTABLE RACISM?

On 14 November, the STP organised a panel discussion with Swiss and German representatives of the three minority groups: Roma, Sinti and Yenish. The main goal of this event titled *Antiziganism – Socially Acceptable Racism? Overcoming Hostile Attitudes Towards Roma, Sinti and Yenish* was to sensitise the public about antiziganism. The panellists as well as the audience explored questions such as how minorities deal with antiziganism in everyday life, the use of the term gipsy for marketing purposes, the relevance of the cultural recognition of Yenish, Sinti and Roma as national minorities of Switzerland, or personal strategies to overcome antiziganism.

This conversation enabled a direct exchange between active minority representatives and the general public, inspired the audience to reflect upon stereotypes and facilitated the sharing of experiences between the activists.



● The panellists with our president (from left to right): Venanz Nobel (vice-president of Schäft Quant, CH), Dotschy Reinhardt (singer and author, DE), Ruth-Gaby Vermot-Manglod and Mustafa Asan (artist at RJS Art Kollektiv, CH). Photo: © Society for Threatened Peoples, Nicole Huwyler



Thousands of Roma, Ashkali and Balkan Egyptians are forced into an ongoing circle of migration.



The STP demanded recognition for Yenish, Sinti and Roma on International Romani Day.



“Antiziganism – Socially Acceptable Racism?” was the title of our panel discussion in November.

LOST IN TRANSITION

In Kosovo, antiziganism is still prevalent as well. Roma, Ashkali and Balkan Egyptians are invariably subjected to structural and cumulative discrimination. They barely have access to employment or housing and their children are discriminated against in school. Therefore, many Roma, Ashkali and Balkan Egyptians are leaving their home country for Western Europe, hoping to find a better life there. However, many Western European countries have declared Kosovo “a safe country of origin” again, which allows them to repatriate refugees back to Kosovo. Thus, numerous Roma, Ashkali and Balkan Egyptians are forced into an ongoing circle of migration, caused by Kosovo’s failed reintegration policy and the European return policies. The lack of prospects in Kosovo forces the majority of deported Roma, Ashkali and Balkan Egyptians to either go underground in Western Europe or to move to one of the informal slums in Serbia.

The STP report *Lost in Transition – the Forced Migration of Roma, Ashkali and Balkan Egyptians from Kosovo* published in December shows the failure of the European return policies, demands sustainable solutions and appeals to Western Europe to refrain from deporting Roma, Ashkali and Balkan Egyptians. The report is based on 70 interviews with repatriated Roma, Ashkali and Balkan Egyptians in Kosovo and in Serbia, which the STP conducted between November 2014 and February 2015. The questions covered topics such as the source of income and access to social welfare, healthcare and education.

LOBBYING

Exerting political influence is crucial for a campaign’s success. Therefore, lobbying public authorities, the parliament and media professionals constitutes an essential part of our Stop Antiziganism campaign. In 2015, just as in previous years, the STP was actively involved in representing the interests of minorities – Yenish, Sinti and Roma in Switzerland as well as Roma, Ashkali and Balkan Egyptians in Kosovo – towards decision-makers on different levels. In particular, we provided information to parliamentarians, held presentations for different stakeholders, composed a lobbying paper for the *Kulturbotschaft 2016-2020* to demand a higher budget for Yenish, Sinti and Roma, responded to media inquiries, advised the Federal Office of Culture with regards to campaign-relevant questions, and supported activists.

KOVI

RESPONSIBLE BUSINESS INITIATIVE

Indigenous peoples are especially affected by human rights violations of multinational corporations. In theory, international law establishes their right to co-determination through *Free, Prior and Informed Consent* (FPIC). In reality, however, indigenous peoples are – if at all – rarely consulted appropriately when multinational enterprises want to make use of their land. Hence, the STP co-launched the *Responsible Business Initiative* in April 2015. It aims to integrate mandatory protection for human rights and the environment into the business practices of Swiss companies.

Swiss companies expanded their activities beyond Switzerland's borders long ago and today, global supply chains are the norm rather than the exception. In Switzerland, enterprises have to adhere to laws and provisions that ensure the protection of human rights and the environment. However, many other countries lack such legislation or proper implementation thereof. And on a global level, there are not any legally binding minimum standards for companies either.

Admittedly, in 2011, the *UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights* were adopted, which stipulate that corporations have to assess all their business practices to identify potential adverse effects on humans and the environment, and, where applicable, take action to remedy these impacts. However, the *UN Guiding Principles* are merely a declaration of intent, without any legal obligation. But it does not suffice to solely count on the voluntary engagement of companies, a fact that is also demonstrated by those cases of partially grave human rights violations and environmental pollution which the STP has uncovered: the Yanacocha gold mine that violates the rights of the local population in Peru, the Metalor gold refinery which processes dubious and partly illegal gold from Peru, or the tourism industry in Sri Lanka, which offers stays in hotels that destroy the livelihood of traditional fishermen. The *Responsible Business Initiative* enshrines a significant part of the *UN Guiding Principles* into Swiss law, thus rendering, for example, due diligence practices for Swiss corporations mandatory.

WADI

ASSOCIATION FOR CRISIS ASSISTANCE AND
SOLIDARITY DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

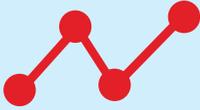
WADI is an association for crisis assistance and solidarity development cooperation. Since 1992, it has supported programmes and projects to empower people and strengthen human rights in the Middle East, namely in Israel, Jordan and particularly in Iraq. WADI focuses on strengthening human and women's rights. The core of WADI's activities consists of projects which combine practical help with the rights and skills of individuals: rehabilitation projects for long-term prisoners, literacy courses, education and training for women, raising awareness about and fighting domestic violence against women and girls, and campaigns against female genital mutilation.

Since 2008, the STP has supported certain projects of WADI and had in the past conducted the monitoring of these projects. In recent years, the work of the STP has been limited to accompanying the projects which are funded mainly by Green Cross and the Roselo Foundation. These donations amounted to just over CHF 500,000 in 2015.

Owing to these contributions, WADI was able to realise the following projects in 2015:

- Providing a mobile playground for children
- Operating the independent community radio station Radio Denge New
- Managing a centre for women which offers seminars about women's rights, female genital mutilation, early and forced marriage, women's health and environmental topics
- Implementing a project to foster the integration of refugees from Iraq and Syria
- Supporting the victims of chemical attacks through medical treatment as well as educational and awareness courses

@ More about WADI is available on their website:
<http://en.wadi-online.de/index.php><http://www.wadi-online.de/>



FINANCIAL REPORT

Like every year, we have been careful to allocate our resources efficiently and to operate economically. We succeeded in this endeavour and are happy that our organisation capital increased to CHF 620,300. Thus, we have the necessary financial means to remain committed to helping minorities and indigenous peoples to fight for their rights.

Our work would not be possible without the generous support of our members and donors, or the contributions of foundations and public authorities. Therefore, the STP would like to thank everyone wholeheartedly for their support.

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 2015, the STP invested a total of CHF 341,032.12 in fundraising activities. Member recruitment 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 2015, the STP had about 12,500 active members (Previous Year (PY) 13,270).

The executive board met five times in 2015 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 2016

Over the course of 2015, the STP permanently employed 14 people, including 4 interns and 2 apprentices. The internships normally last for 6 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. For 2015, a membership fee of EUR 500 was paid (PY EUR 2,000). 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 STP would like to thank all members, donors, foundations and public authorities for their generous support. Without you, our work would not be possible – heartfelt thanks to all of you! 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 2015

ASSETS	2015	2014
LIQUID ASSETS	779,411.76	596,243.82
OUTSTANDING ASSETS/RECEIVABLES	4,329.52	4,232.37
ACCRUED INCOME	28,688.95	14,706.33
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	812,430.23	615,182.52
TANGIBLE ASSETS	5,251.00	11,000.00
TOTAL CAPITAL ASSETS	5,251.00	11,000.00
TOTAL ASSETS	817,681.23	626,182.52

Liabilities	2015	2014
SHORT-TERM BORROWED CAPITAL	150,458.92	156,674.81
ACCRUED EXPENSES/DEFERRED INCOME	25,073.74	44,012.07
LONG-TERM BORROWED CAPITAL	0.00	50,000.00
TOTAL BORROWED CAPITAL	175,532.66	250,686.88
FUNDS	21,801.78	24,469.38
TOTAL FUNDS	21,801.78	24,469.38
ORGANISATION CAPITAL	351,026.26	-40,188.37
NET PROFIT/LOSS	269,320.53	391,214.63
TOTAL EQUITY	620,346.79	351,026.26
TOTAL LIABILITIES	817,681.23	626,182.52

INCOME STATEMENT FOR 1 JANUARY 2015 TO 31 DECEMBER 2015

INCOME	2015	2014
SALES REVENUE	3,018.55	2,160.70
MEMBERSHIP FEES AND DONATIONS	1,522,551.05	1,632,395.85
CONTRIBUTIONS	553,674.65	236,306.58
OTHER INCOME	2,990.20	18,021.00
TOTAL INCOME	2,082,234.45	1,888,884.13

EXPENDITURE	2015	2014
CAMPAIGNS & PROJECTS	947,093.02	550,148.52
PERSONNEL EXPENSES	406,265.67	340,992.30
ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS	107,189.52	126,020.08
FUNDRAISING COSTS	341,032.12	546,994.57
DEPRECIATIONS	5,749.00	5,750.00
OPERATING INCOME	274,905.12	318,978.66
FINANCIAL INCOME/EXTRAORDINARY PROFIT/LOSS	8,252.19	47,265.67
EARNINGS BEFORE CHANGE OF FUNDS CAPITAL	266,652.93	366,244.33
TOTAL FUNDS CAPITAL	2,667.60	2,4970.30
ANNUAL PROFIT	269,320.53	391,214.63

Appendix to the financial report 2015

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.

CHANGE IN THE CONSISTENCY OF REPRESENTATION & EVALUATION

Due to the new *Accounting and Auditing Act* (Rechnungslegungsgesetz) and the adapted Financial Reporting Standard by Swiss GAAP FER, small adaptations in the representation of the financial report were necessary.

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 1.05 (PY 1.25), those in USD (PY no bookings) at an exchange rate of 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 2015.

Prepaid Expenses

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

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 100,000 (PY CHF 100,000).

	1.1.2014	ACCRUAL	DEPRECIATION	31.12.2014
FIXTURES AND FURNISHINGS	1,000.00	0.00	500.00	500.00
COMPUTER SYSTEM, IT	15,750.00	0.00	5,250.00	10,500.00

	1.1.2015	ACCRUAL	DEPRECIATION	31.12.2015
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

Short-Term Borrowed Capital

Just as in the previous year, liabilities towards fundraising agencies contain provisions from contributions of the accounting year. There are no liabilities towards pension institutions in 2015 (PY CHF 4,001.30).

Accrued Expenses/Deferred Income

The reported overtime was calculated individually for each employee. The director renounced part of his overtime credit. This part was not accounted for.

Long-Term Borrowed Capital

The loans granted by some board members and the management body were fully repaid in 2015.

Organisation Capital

The annual profit of CHF 269,320.53 is allocated to the organisation capital, which now amounts to CHF 620,346.79 (PY CHF 351,026.26).

Guarantee and Leasing Obligations

No such obligations exist on the balance sheet date.

Remuneration to Directors

Since management is only assigned to one person, the managerial reimbursement is not published. The members of the board neither received any 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	2015	2014
GREEN CROSS WADI PROJECT	536,426.00	218,631.00
REFORMIERTE KIRCHGEMEINDE SISSACH ROMA PROJECT IN KOSOVO	5,000.00	5,000.00
REFORMIERTE KIRCHGEMEINDE KREUZLINGEN DONATION	3,000.00	5,000.00
SOCIETY FOR THREATENED PEOPLES AUSTRIA CONTRIBUTION TO RESEARCH IN PERU	3,150.00	

CONTRIBUTIONS FROM PUBLIC AUTHORITIES	2015	2014
GS-FDHA, SERVICE FOR COMBATING RACISM PANEL ON ANTIZIGANISM	2,500.00	

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. 14 individuals with a workload of between 30 % and 80 % were employed in the reporting year (PY 16 individuals). This corresponds to an annual average of 7.75 (PY 6.3) 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 2,000).

Extraordinary Profit/Loss

Expenses for a foundation database from 2011.

THE ORGANISATION'S SITUATION

Owing to another good accounting result, we could improve our equity capital base and secure our liquidity for the time being. However, the competitive donor market forces us to keep looking for new sources of revenue and to stay economical.

@ *You can order the complete Financial Report, including the Audit Report (both in German) from the STP or download it from our website: www.gfbv.de/uber_uns/jahresbericht*



BOARD & TEAM

2015 was a year filled with emotions. We were excited when a deported Tamil – who was at risk of being detained and tortured – was finally able to move back to Switzerland in April. It is nice to see that our persistent work pays off. It was rather disappointing, however, to observe that the new government in Sri Lanka has not changed much about the worrisome human rights situation. A hopeful atmosphere pervaded the photo campaign with minority representatives in front of the Parliament, with which we demanded respect for and recognition of Yenish, Sinti and Roma in Switzerland. And we were completely outraged about the fact that Swiss refineries have processed illegal gold from Peru for years – and Metalor most likely continues to do so.

There was also some movement in our office. Since our apprentice, Dominic Rudolf, left our team after successfully completing his commercial apprenticeship, we could welcome Nahom Andemicael as our new trainee. Our team was further joined by a new campaign manager in the field of business & indigenous rights, Magdalena Urrejola Balçak. We warmly welcome our new colleagues and look forward to successful teamwork!

The STP would like to take this opportunity to express heartfelt thanks to everyone who has contributed to our activities as an intern or as a volunteer.

One Year – One Word



#convincing
Ruth-Gaby Vermot-Mangold
President STP



#versatile
Sonja Beeli-Zimmermann
Board STP



#renewal
Göpf Berweger
Vice-President STP



#impactful
Theodora Peter
Board STP



#credible
Urs Zschokke
Board STP



#challenging

Christoph Wiedmer
Director



#lively

Nicole Huwyler
Manager of Communication
& Fundraising



#motivating

Angela Mattli
Campaign Coordinator



#summer

Erika Lerch
Manager of Finance
and Services



#dedicated

Magdalena Urrejola
Campaign Manager Business
and Indigenous Rights



#provocative

Yves Bowie
Campaign Manager
Sri Lanka



#persistent

Lisa Schirinzi
Finance and Services



#inspiring

Tania Brügger Marquez
Graphic Designer



#strength

Dominic Rudolf
Apprentice: Finance & Services
(until July 2015)



#purposeful

Nahom Andemicael
Apprentice: Finance & Services
(since September 2015)



#expeditions

Christiaan Meijer
Intern: Campaigns & Projects
(since February 2015)



#startling

Sara Ryser
Intern: Communication
& Fundraising
(since September 2015)



#diversity

Anne Cugni
Intern: Communication
& Fundraising
(until August 2015)



#accountability

Daryl Snell
Intern: Campaigns & Projects
(until April 2015)

Thank you!

A black and white portrait of Pedro Lenz, a man with shoulder-length hair, looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. He is wearing a dark jacket over a t-shirt.

«The STP gives a voice to indigenous peoples. That is why the STP will be needed in future too.»

Pedro Lenz, author

SUPPORT THE STP'S FIGHT 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!