



2011

HELSINKI CITIZENS' ASSEMBLY
VANADZOR OFFICE

ANNUAL REPORT



OPEN SOCIETY INSTITUTES - ARMENIA



**HELSINKI CITIZENS' ASSEMBLY
VANADZOR OFFICE**

The report has been prepared and published with the support of Open Society Institute Assistance Foundation - Armenia.

Opinions, interpretations and conclusions expressed in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the funding organization.

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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Helsinki Citizens' Assembly Vanadzor Office (hereinafter referred to as HCA Vanadzor Office) was founded in 1998 as a branch of Helsinki Citizens' Assembly Armenian Committee. It was registered as an independent organization in 2001, and was re-registered in the RA Ministry of Justice in 2005.

The Organization is located in the capital of Lori Region, the town of Vanadzor. The organization has representations in the towns of Alaverdi, Tashir, Stepanavan and Spitak of Lori Region.

The geography of the Organization's activities covers Lori Region as well as the entire territory of the republic through different projects and campaigns. During the last five years the majority of project actions included the northern regions of Armenia.

The main spheres of Organization's activities are human rights, advocacy and peace-building.

While implementing its activities the Organization is being led by the need for localization and protection of international human rights documents and norms ratified by the Republic of Armenia.

During 2011, the Organization carried out 3 three-year and 3 short-term projects, while continuing the implementation of 3 other projects in 2011, which were started in 2009 and 2010. Up to 23 staff members and about 30 service-provider experts and monitors have been involved in the implementation of the above mentioned projects.

Long-term projects:

a) "Training and Networking for Young Human Rights Activists", funded by the National Endowment for Democracy/NED Foundation: The goal of the project is to increase the role of youth in human rights movement.

b) "Reforms in the RA Police System", funded by the Norwegian Foreign Ministry. The goal of the project is the prevention of torture and inhuman or degrading treatment in the RA Police precincts through implementation of Human Rights monitoring, as well as by providing legal assistance to the victims of such behavior.

c) "Institutional Support Matching Funds Project" project funded by the New York and Budapest Offices of the Open Society Institute Assistance Foundations. The goal of the project is to ensure development of HCA Vanadzor Office capacities through implementation of project activities.

Short-term projects:

d) "Precedential Right in the Process of Practicing Justice", funded by Counterpart International Armenia. The goal of the project is promote effective application of justice as a result of conclusion of precedential right.

e) "Know your Rights", funded by Internews Media Support NGO. The goal of the project is to raise awareness among conscripts and servicemen about their rights.

f) "Assistance in the Reforms of RA Criminal Policy in the Human Rights Context", funded by Counterpart International Armenian Representation. The goal of the project is

to assist in the reforms of criminal policy as a result of changing the legislation or practice, for the implementation of which there is a need for an in-depth analysis of problems existing in the sphere of human rights and revealing the reasons of their violations.

Projects started during previous years and continued through 2011:

g) "Public Monitoring over the RA Armed Forces" project funded by the Interchurch Organization for Development Cooperation (ICCO), implementation started since 2009. The goal of the project is to increase the capacity of NGOs' Experts in the sphere of public monitoring over the armed forces contributing into the protection of human rights in the RA armed forces and for particularly developing statistics for the cases of deaths and increasing the effectiveness of investigation for revealing such cases, improving transparency in the sphere of defense, increasing the level of accountability, as well as forming public surveillance over the fulfillment of international obligations in reforming RA armed forces.

h) "Protection of Witnesses" (started since 2010), implemented with financial assistance of OSCE Yerevan Office. The goal of the project is to assess how the rights of witnesses in Armenia are ensured and at the same time reveal the circumstances constraining the full protection of the rights of witnesses.

i) "Capacity Building for the Implementation of Human Rights Monitoring in Neuro-Psychiatric Medical Institutions" (implementation started since 2009), funded by the Open Society Institute Assistance Foundations (Armenia and Budapest Offices). The goal of the project is to contribute into sustaining preventive measures in the fight against torture as foreseen by the European Convention.

2. PRESENTATION OF STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

In 2010 HCA Vanadzor Office developed the Organization's strategy for the years of 2011-2015, by formulating strategic goals and objectives:

Human Rights

- Conformation of legislation and its application to the international standards in the spheres of protection of political, civil and social rights
- Implementation of the institute of Human Rights Witnesses

Civic Initiative and Advocacy

- Promotion of public participatory mechanisms
- Development and implementation of advocacy policy for supporting human rights protection, peace-building and civic initiatives

Peace-Building

- Contributing into reducing the level of militarization
- Strengthening the peace-building potential of citizens
- Development of mutual trust and dialogue between isolated¹ societies.

3. CHANGES IMPLEMENTED DURING 2011

In 2011, HCA Vanadzor Office initiated several institutional changes by taking into account the results of assessment carried out by the Open Society Institutes Armenia Office, as well as the direction of the capacity building project implemented by the Organization. In particular, the Organization approved a new structure and a clear distribution of responsibilities among the staff took place, which resulted in narrowing specialization of staff by specific fields. The Legal Consultancy Unit is now organizing receiving citizens in a separate space ensuring the confidentiality of legal consulting. The Board of the Organization has the following members: Agnieszka Kłosowska (Human Rights Helsinki Foundation, Poland), Pascal Bokkers (Actions Against Famine Armenia Office), Siegfried Wöber (Center for Prevention of Conflicts of OSCE Secretariat), Armen Sargsyan ("Internews" Media Support NGO), Krist Marukyan (Local Expert).

¹ In the context of this Strategy "isolated societies" are referred to the societies of conflicting countries

4. IMPLEMENTED ACTIVITIES ACCORDING TO THEIR DIRECTIONS

4.1 Legal Support

4.1.1 Legal Consulting

In 2011, 611 citizens received legal consultations from HCA Vanadzor Office of which 270 were in written form and 341 verbal. In the representations of HCA Vanadzor Office: in the towns of Stepanavan (40), Spitak (164), Alaverdi (54), and Tashir (18) 276 received legal consultations. 45% of written and verbal consulting provided by the Organization had positive outcome already, whereas the 55% are still in process. Based on the types of consultations, the following rights of citizens were mainly violated by the state authorities during 2011:

- The right to be free from torture and inhuman or degrading treatment,
- Rights of conscripts related to the protection of health,
- Right to social security,
- Right to employment,
- Freedom of Expression, access information,
- Right to liberty and personal immunity,
- Right to property,
- Right to fair trial.

During 2011, 8 citizens who applied for legal advice later refused to continue with their cases for different reasons, and in 2 cases HCA Vanadzor Office refused to proceed with the cases. In the first case, an agreement was reached with the Police and in the second case, the presented information was unreliable.

The problems of citizens for which by which they applied to the Organization have mainly related to the following bodies (violations took place by):

- State Committee of Real Estate Cadastre,
- Medical-social expert commission,
- Service of Mandatory Implementation of Judgments
- Court of Common Jurisdiction, Administrative Court,
- RA Ministry of Labor and Social Issues,
- RA Ministry of Healthcare,
- RA Ministry of Education and Science,
- RA Ministry of Defense,
- RA Ministry of Finances,
- Notary Office,
- Police,

- Social Security, Unemployment and pension benefits,
- Local Self-government Bodies.

4.1.2 Strategic Litigations

During 2010-2011, HCA Vanadzor Office undertook 41 cases with strategic significance, of which 22 cases initiated in 2010, were in relation to:

- right to be free from torture and inhuman or degrading treatment - 2 cases,
- freedom of expression, access information - 5 cases,
- right to property - 5 cases,
- right to life - 3 cases,
- right to fair trial - 5 cases,
- disputing decisions of local community council - 2 cases.

During 2011, HCA Vanadzor Office has undertaken 19 cases with strategic significance which related to:

- the rights to freedom of movement, assembly, rallies, marches and demonstrations - 2 cases,
- freedom of expression, access information - 1 case,
- right to fair trial - 2 cases,
- right to life - 1 case,
- compensation for damage to honor, dignity and business reputation - 7 cases,
- rights of conscripts and servicemen - 4 cases,
- right to liberty and personal immunity - 1 case,
- rights to employment - 1 case.

So far HCA Vanadzor Office has submitted 4 cases to the European Court of Human Rights related to:

- the right to be free from torture and inhuman or degrading treatment - 2 cases,
- right to property - 1 case,
- freedom of expression, access information - 1 case.

4.2 Monitoring / Fact finding mission

In its activities the Helsinki Citizens' Assembly Vanadzor Office is extensively using monitoring and fact-finding as effective tools. In particular, fact-finding missions have been implemented in the following spheres and directions:

4.2.1 Right to Fair Trial

During May-October 2011, in 9 first instance courts of common jurisdiction of Lori, Shirak and Tavush regions, and in those of the administrative districts of Yerevan "Monitoring of the right to fair trial of drug users" was carried out, which included a study of pretrial and trial cases of persons charged with illicit circulation of drugs. The purpose of the monitoring was to find out to what extent the rights of persons charged with use of drugs are protected in the frames of cases brought against them. The monitoring was implemented by 10 pre-trained monitors.

The "Monitoring of the right to fair trial" of persons charged with illicit circulation of drugs was conducted through 248 court hearings in the frames of 65 criminal cases, 48 out of which took place by means of general trial procedure, and 17 by expedited hearing. A number of violations were observed during the monitoring of court hearings. In particular, only 23 out of 248 court hearings started at the scheduled time, the remaining 225 court hearings started with delay from 10 minutes to 1 hour and 40 minutes. In the trial stage, pressure was used against 3 witnesses by the presiding judge, prosecutor and the defender. In the trial stage of 6 cases it became clear that the right of accused to fair trial was violated in the course of pre-trial, in particular, the evidences were obtained by impermissible means. 3 of the accused announced that they were ill-treated, threatened and gave testimony under pressure, however, the court did not consider this evidence obtained at pre-trial stage of the mentioned cases as unacceptable, and no new investigation was launched by the fact of ill-treatment towards the accused.

The monitoring of pre-trial process was implemented through analyzing cards completed by 12 lawyers in frames of 47 cases. As a result of pre-trial monitoring various violations were observed, in particular, in 12 cases the evidences were obtained through impermissible means, in 13 cases the prosecutor objected against applying expedited trial without justification in the indictment, in 2 cases physical ill-treatment was used against the accused/suspect, in 6 cases threats, offense and inhuman treatment took place. In 8 cases accused/suspect was brought to and kept under Police custody for more than 3 hours as prescribed by law.

4.2.2 Mass Media / Other Sources

During the months of February-November 2011, HCA Vanadzor Office implemented a Mass-Media monitoring having aim at identifying the situation with the rights of patients: people with mental health problems, drug users, persons suffering from alcohol Armenia according to 26 official and non-official mass media outlets. During the monitoring, 1226 media articles about patients were collected, which were mainly

related to illicit drug circulation (820), offenses committed by patients (81), conscripts with mental health problems, servicemen (67) and so on. In the process of monitoring 279 violations were recorded of which 264 were violations of patients' private life and the right to privacy, which in all cases took place in the form of publicizing of personal data of these persons. 6 of the materials concerned violated rights of servicemen, 5 - the right to fair trial, 2 - the right to be free from torture and ill treatment, 1 - access to information, 1 - right to assuring quality standards.

In 2011, observation of facts of human rights violations in the RA Armed Forces was carried out by the Peacebuilding department of the Organization. Relevant information was collected from the ministry of defense and its subdivisions by submitting 20 information requests, letters and applications. Moreover, visits to conscripts, servicemen and their families were organized with the purpose of fact-finding, as well as for provision of legal assistance.

At the same time, in 2011, a mass media monitoring has been implemented based on which the analysis of cases of deaths in RA armed forces in 2011 was prepared, the descriptions of circumstances of deaths have been compiled, as well as of the investigation process directed to the disclosure of those cases.

4.2.3 State expenses

HCA Vanadzor Office signifying the **provision of financial resources required for treatment and care of patients** in the protection of human rights implemented a monitoring of the state budget expenditures aiming to reveal the RA state policy and the financial resources allocated for the well-being of patients. The results of monitoring showed that the volume treatment and care service supplied to patients depends on the size of healthcare budget. In fact, AMD 1,535,860.70 was allocated for treatment and care patients in 2008, AMD 1,761,442.80 in 2009, AMD 1,619,869.60 in 2010, which made about 2.8% of the annual healthcare budget. The state finances the provision of treatment and care services to patients according to set rates: patient/day, bed/day, accidents and other rates. Thus, depending on the type of provided service the cost of 1 bed per day is from AMD 3,750 to 6,600, for treatment of patient suffering from chronic mental illness: 3,750 (Unit of measurement - day), examination in clinical conditions for diagnostics purposes: 3,750 (Unit of measurement - diagnosis), treatment of urgent cases of mental illness: 5,900 (Unit of measurement - accident), treatment of narcological patients: 6,600 (Unit of measurement - accident) and etc. This amount comprises of staff salary, medicine, food and other expenses. Summary of study results allows concluding that legislative gaps exist in the planning stage of allocation of state funds for provision of such services. The resources are planned not based on the actual number of patients but according to the available financial means, which creates obstacles for the availability of service and may bear corruption risks. From the economic efficiency standpoint of provision of services there is a lack of clear criteria, which would allow assessing the effectiveness of the spent resources, as well as the quality of provided service.

4.2.4 Implementation of state projects

In order to observe the reforms in protection of human rights in relations between Police and citizens the **2010-2011 Reform Program in the Sphere of RA Police Activities** was studied. Information on the activities planned by the program has been collected from press publications, and from official publications in regard to activities intending legislative changes. In November 2011, the Organization submitted an inquiry to the RA Police, which included questions regarding human rights, covering a number of activities having direct impact on the protection of police servicemen in the frames of Reform Program in the Sphere of Police. In response to the mentioned inquiry the RA Police Headquarters responded that no information could be provided since it partly relates to legal acts containing state or other secret protected by law. No information was provided in regard to other questions reasoning that at that point the program was in its concluding stage. About a month later, reports were published on the official website of RA Police regarding the course of activities intended by the 2010-2011 Reform Program in the Sphere of RA Police, as well as on the RA Police² activities implemented in the frames of implementation of 2011 Events of RA Government³.

In 2011 the Organization conducted a monitoring of **2009-2012 National Program for the fight against the drug addiction and illicit circulation of drugs in Armenia**, for understanding to what extent the project refers to the protection of the rights of drug users, how the program activities are being implemented and to what extent the program contributes to the positive change of situation. In general, the schedule of events of the National Program includes 87 events 20 of which are directed towards the achievement of legislative reforms, 6 towards the project implementation, 4 towards the awareness raising, 4 towards the technical assistance and staff development, 3 towards ensuring information exchange system, 9 are analytical, 26 are methodological, 6 are institutional, and 22 are procedural. Overall, 14 state institutions and bodies are in charge of the program implementation. For collection of information regarding the course of program implementation the Organization submitted information inquiries to the bodies in charge of implementation of program events. The analysis of information received in response to the submitted inquiries revealed that out of 17 events planned by 2012, only 8 were accomplished as such. As for the other events, the period of their implementation is set for 2010-2012 according to the schedule, as a result of which these events are considered to be in process.

3.2.5 Quick response mechanism

Overall, the staff of the Organization realized 39 quick responses in 2011, out of which:

- in 20 cases the realization of the right to freedom of citizens' movement were observed, in particular, whether the public transport were fully operational and if the Police blocked highways leading to the capital city on the days of opposition rallies,
- in 2 cases the limitations to free movement of drivers willing to take part in

² <http://www.police.am/am/aycer/1180-2010-12-15-21-49-01>

³ <http://www.police.am/am/aycer/6106--2011->

- the public protest campaign were observed,
- in 5 cases visits were arranged based on citizens' alarm-calls related to criminal cases filed against them or in relation to non-legitimate actions of Police officers,
- in 12 cases legal assistance was provided in relation to the cases of violations of rights conscripts, servicemen or discharged persons, 5 of which through visits.

4.3 Legislative initiatives

In 2011, HCA Vanadzor Office developed packages of legislative proposals directed towards changes and amendments in 7 legislative and sub-legislative acts for improving the protection of rights of persons with mental health problems and drug users. The changes are proposed in the:

- RA Criminal Code,
- RA Criminal Procedure Code,
- Bill of RA Law "About Healthcare",
- RA Law "About Mental Healthcare",
- RA Government Decree N 424, from 20.04.2008,
- RA Government Decree N 821, from 25.12.1998, "About Approving the Description of the RA Citizen's Passport",
- "Procedure on Medical Observation of Drug Users and Their Registration" approved by the RA Government Decree 1599-N, from 20.12.2007.

The legislative proposals developed by the Organization were divided according to their directions and submitted to the corresponding Commissions of the RA National Assembly in 3 separate packages during the 2011 autumn session.

Package of proposals related to legislative changes/amendments in the sphere of patients' rights developed by HCA Vanadzor Office were submitted to the Commission on the Issues of Motherhood and Childhood and to the Permanent Commission on State-Legal Issues of the RA National Assembly.

The meeting was organized in cooperation with Counterpart International and US AID Strengthening of Armenian Healthcare System (HS-STAR) project in frames of the "Legislative Agenda Discussion Day" initiative carried out during August-September 2011.

During the working meeting organized toward the RA National Assembly 2011 autumn session the package of legislative proposals have been presented to the Permanent Commission on State-Legal Issues of the RA National Assembly regarding changes and amendments in the:

- RA Criminal Code,
- RA Criminal Procedure Code,
- RA Family Code,
- RA Law "on the Compulsory Motor Third Party Liability Insurance".

In the same timeframe a package of proposals suggesting changes in the bill of RA Law "about Conscience and Religious Freedoms" was presented to the Permanent Commission on State-Legal Issues of the RA National Assembly.

The meetings-discussions with the Permanent Commission on State-Legal Issues of the RA National Assembly were coordinated by the Human Rights Network (Open Society Institutes Armenia):

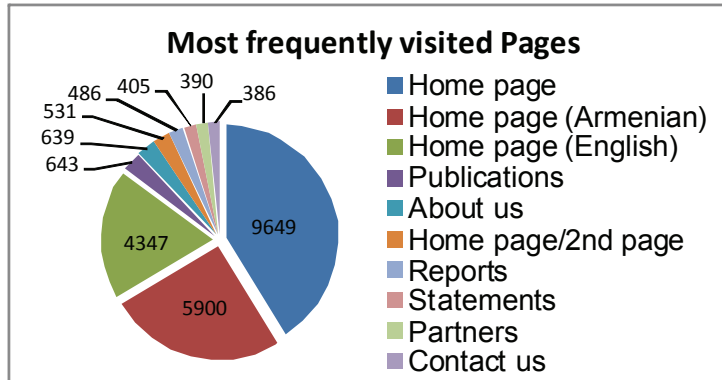
On December 13, 2011, the Organization took part in the public hearing of the bill on "Human Rights National Strategy" developed by the interunital committee of the RA National Security Council, which was organized in the RA National Assembly by the RA National Assembly Permanent Commission on Human Rights and Public Issues and the Staff of the RA National Security Council in assistance with the EU Advisory Group. During the meeting the Organization has presented its opinion/proposals regarding the "Human Rights National Strategy" in verbal form. Proposals in writing were presented in January 2012.

Back in 2004, the HCA Vanadzor Office had already developed a bill on RA law "about Missing Persons", which was officially circulated in 2005, by Viktor Dallakyan, a member of the RA National Assembly. Later, there was a need to bring the bill into compliance with the principles of a typical law "about Missing Persons" developed by the International Committee of Red Cross. This was why by the initiative of the RA Ministry of Foreign Affairs a working group has been formed in 2010, comprising of the Delegation of International Committee of Red Cross and representatives of the RA Police, RA Ministry of Defense, RA National Security Service, Staff of RA President, RA National Assembly, RA Ministry of Healthcare, Office of RA Ombudsman, RA Ministry of Labor and Social Issues and HCA Vanadzor Office. The work on the draft law continued during 2011, and the bill has been presented to the interunital commission for obtaining the latter's opinion.

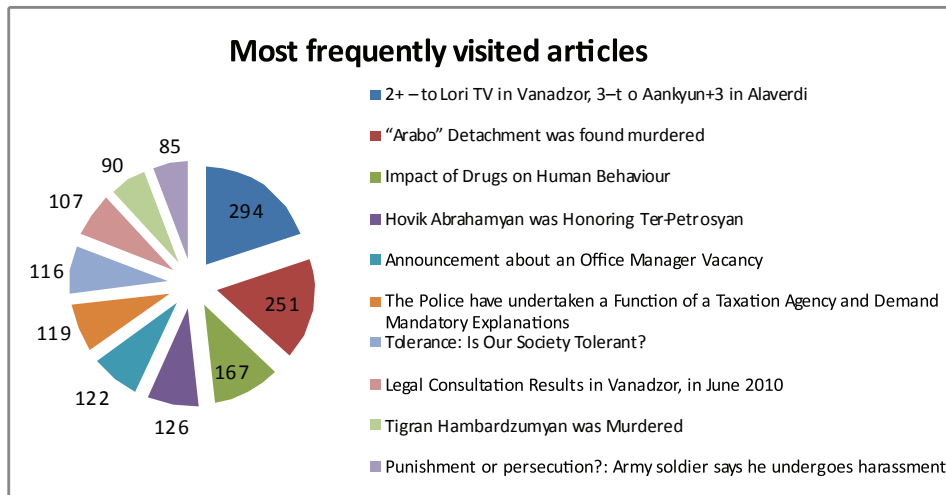
5. EVENTS

5.1 Publicity

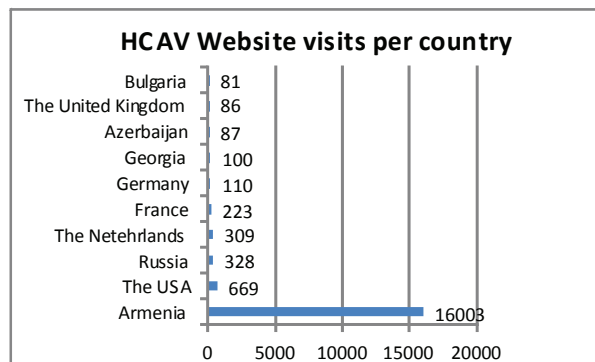
In total 474 different materials were posted on the Organization's website during 2011, of which 299 were re-postings from other news websites, and 175 were materials of own production. The 474 posted materials were about fair trial (171 pieces), armed forces (83 pieces), police (77 pieces), rights of servicemen (59 pieces) and penitentiaries (37 pieces)



Analysis of visits to the Organization's website shows the following:



At the same time the following chart illustrates per country breakdown of visitors:



5.2 Public events

During 2011 the Organization has realized the following public events:

4 press conferences

- Regarding the realization of Nikol Pashinyan's, a prisoner in the custody of "Artik" Penitentiary, right to correspondence, communication with external world and submission of applications through the administration of penitentiary
- Regarding the case of Tigran Postanjyan
- Regarding the support of the Board Members of the Council of Trustees of "People's TV" Foundation to "A1+" TV Company
- Regarding the case of Manvel Hazroyan

6 discussions

- In the topic of "Films and the Society" in the frames of British Film Festival
- Two working discussions in the frames of project "Precedential Right in the Process of Practicing Justice"
- Presentation of the Armenian-Azerbaijani and Armenian-Turkish relations to the Turkish and American youth
- RA social-economic and political situation
- In the topic of "Youth Participation by the Means of Virtual and Intercultural Dialogue"

2 presentations

- Report on "Study: Protection of Witnesses"
- Report on "Precedential Right in the Process of Practicing Justice"

22 statements

- Regarding the attack on Artak Zeynalyan's office
- Regarding the Statement of NGOs about the Eastern Partnership National Platform
- Regarding the burning of a vehicle belonging to Narine Avetisyan, Chief Editor of "Lori" TV Company
- Regarding the launching of criminal prosecution towards Tigran Postanjyan
- Regarding the statement of the Board Members of the Council of Trustees of "People's TV" Foundation in support of "A1+" TV Company
- Call of NGOs to R. Hovhannisyan in his hunger strike under the name of "Fast for Freedom"
- Regarding the application of pressure on the court by Karen Shahbazyan
- Unhealthy Electoral Policy: joined statement of NGOs directed to the RA Government
- Regarding the halting of Vanadzor-Yerevan passenger transportation on April 28, 2011

- Regarding the criminal case of Tigran Postanjyan
- Regarding the availability of HCA Vanadzor Office Hotline
- Regarding Arman Yengibaryan's assassination
- Regarding the completion of consultation in the topic of "Orhus in Armenia: society's estimation"
- NGOs in support of "A1+" TV Company
- Regarding the attempt of putting on fire the Shirak Branch Office of Human Rights Armenia Center named after Sakharov
- Regarding the health problems of conscripts, Open letter to the RA Ministry of Defense
- In support of ANC activists
- In support of Georgi Vanyan
- Regarding the situation in the army
- Regarding the NGO statement on the draft resolution about the activities of democratic institutions in Armenia
- Regarding the improperly organized elections for joining Country Coordination Commission on HIV/AIDS, TB and malaria issues
- Regarding the obstruction of action by the "Army in Reality" Group

5 protest actions (participated)

- Against the recent changes in RA customs legislation (Vanadzor-Gyumri)
- "Army without killers" (in front of the Government Building)
- "Army without killers" second action (in front of the Government Building)
- "Army in Reality" (in front of the Government Building)
- In support of RF political prisoners (in front of the RF Embassy)

Simultaneously the Organization implemented:

- Organization of the British Film Festival
- Tree-planting in the Human Rights Park
- Cleaning activities of Human Rights Park area
- Organization of a commemoration day of a missing freedom-fighter in Vanadzor
- An information flyer prepared based on the results of analysis of cases of death in the RA armed forces during 2010, has been presented in the Round Table organized by OSI and OSCE Yerevan Office on February 22, 2011, which was attended by the RA Ministry of Defense, RA National Assembly Permanent Commissions on Defense, National Security and internal affairs, as well as international and local experts and NGO representatives.
- Since 2005, HCA Vanadzor Office is a member of UNITED European Network. In the frames of activities implemented by the Network the HCA Vanadzor Office carries out annual events directed against all types of race discrimination and an event titled "Against the Gender Discrimination" has been implemented in 2011, for the pupils of Vanadzor public schools and university students.

5.3 Trainings, exchange of experience

| International events for exchange of experience attended by the Organization staff during 2011 | | | |
|---|--|--|---|
| N | Name of Participant | Topic | Organizer/Dates |
| 1. | Tatevik Matinyan | Eastern Europe and Central Asia Regional Dialogue | AIDS Global Commission and Rights Secretariat, May 18-19, 2011, Kishinev, Molodva |
| 2. | Tatevik Matinyan | Eastern Partnership Civic Social Forum | Council of Europe and European Foreign Action Program, November 28-30, 2011, Poznan, Poland |
| 3. | Tatevik Matinyan | European Pro Bono Forum | PILNET Foundation November 17-18, 2011, Berlin, Germany |
| 4. | Artur Sakunts | Integration of Civil Society for Ensuring Transparent and Democratic Elections in 2011 | Open Estonia Foundation March 3-9, 2011, Tallin, Estonia |
| 5. | Artur Sakunts | Working Meeting on Planning in the frames of Assistance Program to Eastern Partnership by the Council of Europe | Council of Europe April 27-28, 2011, Strassbourg, France |
| 6. | Artur Sakunts | Jubilee of Moscow Helsinki Group | Moscow Helsinki Group May 10-13, 2011, Moscow, Russia |
| 7. | Artur Sakunts | "Supporting Armenian Civil Society Structures" conference follow-up | European Cooperation for Democracy, May 24-27, 2011, Brussels, Belgium |
| 8. | Artur Sakunts | Research Training Expert | International Penitentiary Reforms November 28-30, 2011, Tbilisi, Georgia |
| 9. | Artur Sakunts | Solidarity Platform and Conference in Parallel with the meeting of OSCE Ministers | Europe and Eurasia Solidarity Network, December 2-6, 2011, Vilnius, Lithuania |
| National events for exchange of experience attended by the Organization staff during 2011 | | | |
| 1. | Marieta Temuryan Syuzanna Gharaghashyan | "Human Rights and Mental Health" Conference | French-Armenian Development Foundation, February 18, 2011 |
| 2. | Syuzanna Gharaghashyan Marieta Temuryan | "Analysis of the current policy on prescription, distribution and provision of opioid medication, as well as the discussion of the developed final version of standards and guidelines of prescription, distribution and provision of opioid medication" | "Center for Protection of Patients' Rights" NGO, August 19 to September 7, 2011 |

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| 3. | Marieta Temuryan Anahit Chilingaryan | "Problems of Development of Community Services in the Sphere of Mental Health" Conference | June 23, 2011 |
| 4. | Anahit Chilingaryan | "Strengthening of medical secrecy safeguards in the RA in the Context of Protection of Patients' Rights" | Healthcare and Social Rights Protection Scientific Center |
| 5. | Syuzanna Gharaghashyan Anahit Chilingaryan | "Healthcare Financing Problems in the Republic of Armenia" | "Harmonious Development" NGO, November 30, 2011 |
| 6. | Marieta Temuryan Syuzanna Gharaghashyan | Discussion on Monitoring Instruments to be Applied in the Detention Centers and Penitentiaries | Open Society Institutes, December 7, 2011 |
| 7. | ԱՆԻ ՂԱՄԲԱՐԿՅԱՆ | "Mass Media Today" Conference | EU-Armenia November 8-9, 2011 |
| National training courses attended by the Organization staff during 2011 | | | |
| 1. | Marieta Temuryan Syuzanna Gharaghashyan Ani Chatinyan Anahit Chilingaryan | "How to Prepare a Report", "Advocacy" | HCA Vanadzor Office, in the frames of "Youth Involvement in right-protective movement" Project, July 3-7, 2011 |
| 2. | Marieta Temuryan | "Report Preparation" | "Socioscop", April, 2011 |
| 3. | Marieta Temuryan Syuzanna Gharaghashyan | "Health and Human Rights" | "Antidrugs Civil Union" NGO July 22-24, 2011 |
| 4. | Marieta Temuryan | "Human Rights Monitoring in Closed Institutions for Children Deprived of Family Environment" | By Open Society Institutes - Armenia for the Members of Permanent Monitoring Group in the RA Special Schools November 1, 2, 4, 2011 |
| 5. | Marieta Temuryan | "Human Rights and Communication" | Open Society Institutes - Armenia for the Members of Permanent Monitoring Group in the RA Special Schools June 10-12, 2011 |
| 6. | HCA Vanadzor Office all lawyers | "Capacity Building for Lawyers" | HCA Vanadzor Office |
| 7. | Ani Chatinyan | "Application of Precedents of European Court of Human Rights by the RA Courts" | "Protection of Rights Without Borders" NGO September 19, 2011 |
| 8. | Arayik Zalyan Ani Chatinyan | "Strategic Litigation/Application Form and Process of Applying to the European Court" | Open Society Institutes - Armenia July 11-15, 2011 |
| 9. | Arayik Zalyan Ani Chatinyan | "Human Rights Training / Applying to the European Court, individual articles" | Open Society Institutes - Armenia |

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|-----|--------------------|---|---|
| 10. | Ani Ghambaryan | "New Media Tools in Electoral Processes" | "Internews" NGO October 2011 |
| 11. | Ani Ghambaryan | "New Media Tools for Information Campaigns" | «Ինտերնյուս» ՀԿ 2011 թ. փետրվար-մարտ |
| 12. | Ani Ghambaryan | "New Media Tools" | "Internews" NGO October 2011 |
| 13. | Vardine Grigoryan | "Training of Trainers" | "Freedom of Information Center of Armenia", No- vember 25-26, 2011 |
| 14. | Gayane Harutyunyan | "Information Security" | Internet Policy Civic Initiative July 25-26, 2011 |

6. LETTERS

In 2011, the Organization has submitted 309 letters to 160 different bodies in total.

Their classification according to types is as follows:

| Type of letter | Number of bodies | Number of submitted letters |
|----------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|
| Information inquiry | 86 | 193 |
| Application | 18 | 44 |
| Application-complaint | 3 | 7 |
| Application-appeal | 10 | 10 |
| Application-request | 1 | 2 |
| Report Presentation | 1 | 1 |
| Project Presentation | 5 | 5 |
| Report | 2 | 3 |
| Report on crime | 1 | 1 |
| Announcement | 1 | 1 |
| Announcement on withdrawal | 2 | 2 |
| Claim | 4 | 4 |
| Mediation | 1 | 3 |
| Administrative complaint | 2 | 3 |
| Appeal lodgment | 9 | 12 |
| Cassation complaint | 4 | 8 |
| Call for participation | 10 | 10 |

7. HUMAN RIGHTS PARK

In 2011, Helsinki Citizens' Assembly Vanadzor Office, in joint efforts with residents of Taron 4 District of Vanadzor, Jane Britt Greenwood - a Fulbright fellow from the American Institute of Architects and an alumnus of the Yerevan State Engineering University and Ketlin Lestina, US Peace Corps Volunteer in the sphere of community development, has started activities for the creation of a Human Rights Park in Taron 4 District of Vanadzor (population: 7,756). In the beginning of 2011, a needs assessment has been conducted as a result of which it became clear that Taron 4 District will need to have an open-air leisure area considering the fact that the district is quite detached from the town. The purpose of the project is to:

- ensure secure and open-air green environment that will be available to representatives of all generations in all seasons of the year, promoting and contributing into the organization of leisure and healthy lifestyle,
- ensure the awareness of community members about democracy, tolerance, the right to freedom of thought and fundamental values of human rights,
- provide a prototype for construction of such parks in Armenia, demonstrating how may the local community and civic groups have their say in the projection and utilization of public sites.

During 2011, a number of activities were implemented in the frames of creation of Human Rights Park. In particular, human rights lessons were conducted for middle school pupils in two public schools operating in the community, discussions were arranged with community residents about the needs of the Park, cleaning activities were organized with support of district children, and on May 7, 2011, tree-planting has been organized in the area of the Park where more than 40 trees provided by "Hayantar" State Non-Commercial Organization's "Gugark Forestry" Branch were planted.

A meeting of architects was organized on November 12, 2011, having aim at designing the plan of the Human Rights Park. The project design was developed by the architect involved in the project considering the consultations with specialists and the needs of community residents.

Sarhat Petrosyan and Alen Amirkhanyan, AUA Professor and Environmental Consultant, have been involved during the whole process of project implementation with whom the design of Human Rights Park, work organization and implementation process have been discussed.

8. PUBLICATIONS

During 2011, Helsinki Citizens' Assembly Vanadzor Office has issued the following publications:

- **"Protection of Witnesses, Study"** manual - is the result of "Protection of Witnesses" Project⁴. The manual summarizes the questionnaires completed during the implemented monitoring, as well as by lawyers and prosecutors, in 17 investigation units operating in Lori, Tavush and Shirak regions. The manual presents the situation in Lori, Tavush and Shirak regions with ensuring the rights of witnesses emerging from their criminal-trial status.
- **"Analysis of Court Cases Initiated by Helsinki Citizens' Assembly Vanadzor Office"** manual - is the outcome of the "Precedential Right in the Process of Practicing Justice" project. The manual includes legal briefs of overall 20 court cases initiated and completed during 2010-2011, by HCA Vanadzor Office, which were subjected to due diligence for assessing the extent of impact of those cases on the development of case law.
- **"Human Rights Situation in RA Neuro-Psychiatric Medical Institutions"** report - is the outcome of "Capacity Building for the Implementation of Human Rights Monitoring in Neuro-Psychiatric Medical Institutions"⁵ project. The report presents the results of monitorings implemented in 8 neuro-psychiatric medical institutions of RA.
- **"The right to Medical Treatment of People with Mental Health Problems"** information booklet - published in the frames of "Capacity Building and Sustainability of HCA Vanadzor Office" project. The booklet presents the rights of people with mental health problems, mechanisms of protection and restoration of those rights in cases of their violation.
- **"The right to Medical Treatment of People with Drug Addiction and the Means of Provision of First Medical Aid"** information booklet - published in the frames of "Capacity Building and Sustainability of HCA Vanadzor Office" project. The booklet presents the rights of people with drug addiction, mechanisms of protection and restoration of those rights in cases of their violation, as well as instructions on provision of first medical aid to people with drug addiction.
- **"Freedom of movement in the Republic of Armenia within 2011"** report - published in the frames of "Capacity Building and Sustainability of HCA Vanadzor Office" project. The report presents the description of the violations of freedom of movements recorded within 2011 and gives legal determinations for it.
- **"HCA - Vanadzor Human Rights Annual Report"** - published in the frames of "Capacity Building and Sustainability of HCA Vanadzor Office" project. The report presents the human rights situation in Armenia and Lori marz in particular.

⁴ The project has been implemented in August-December 2010, with financial assistance of OSCE Yerevan Office.

⁵ The project has been implemented during 2009-2010, with financial assistance of Open Society Institutes - Budapest Office.

9. EXPANSION OF COOPERATION

In 2011, HCA Vanadzor Office has extended the circle of its cooperation on both national and international levels.

- On November 28-30, 2011, participated in the 3rd meeting of "Eastern Partnership Civic Social Forum" in Poznan, Poland, and became involved in the Human Rights subgroup of the first working group. The Organization had its contribution in the preparation of 2011 report realized by the Human Rights subgroup.
- Became a member of "Eastern Partnership National Platform" in December 2011.
- Became involved in the Human Rights Network created by the Open Society Institutes - Armenia Office in 2011 and took part in the preparation of the UPR shadow report on Armenia carried out by the Network.
- Became involved in Europe and Eurasia Solidarity Network as a founder member. The Network has been officially launched during the strategy planning meeting of the core group of 35 Human Rights NGOs, in Vilnius, in the frames of OSCE Ministerial Council, on December 3-5, 2011.
- Has extended the cooperation with international peacebuilding networks and acted as a partner in the "Youth participation by the Means of Virtual and Intercultural Dialogue" project initiated by "Unified Network of Young Peacebuilder" in the frames of this cooperation.
- Has been a founder member of "Army in Reality" civic initiative created in September 2011.
- In 2011, cooperation has been started between the HCA Vanadzor Office and RA Ministry of Justice, having aim at contributing into the protection of rights of people with mental health problems.
- Participated in the forum dedicated to the formation and dissemination of the culture of provision of free legal consulting organized by PILNET Foundation in November 2011, in Berlin, Germany.

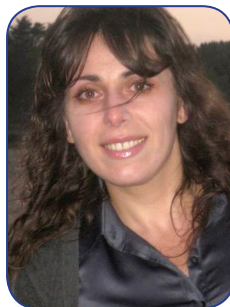
11. HCA VANADZOR OFFICE STAFF



Artur Sakunts
Chairman of HCA Vanadzor Office
(1998 - to present)



Manushak Ohanyan
Chief Accountant
(1998 - to present)



Haykuhi Harutyunyan
Coordinator of Legal department
(2004 - 2011)



Tatevik Matinyan
Coordinator of Legal department
(2011 - to present)



Armine Sadikyan
Coordinator of Peacebuilding department
(2002 - to present)





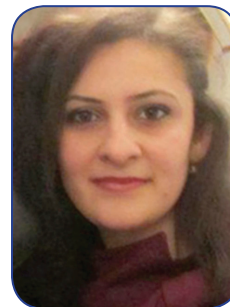
Ofelya Zalyan
Coordinator of Advocacy department
(2010 - to present)



Ani Ghambaryan
Coordinator of PR department
(2007 - to present)



Gayane Harutyunyan
Computer Specialist
(2011 - to present)



Vardine Grigoryan
Translator
(2011 - to present)

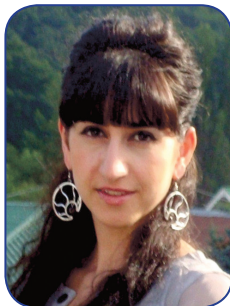


Sirun Gharagyozyan
Translator
(2011)





Suren Ananyan
Administrative Assistant
(2009 - to present)



Marieta Temuryan
Monitoring Specialist
(2007 - to present)



Syuzanna Gharaghashyan
Patients' Rights Specialist
(2008 - to present)



Anahit Chilingaryan
Advocacy Specialist
(2010 - to present)



Arayik Zalyan
Legal Advisor
(2008 - to present)





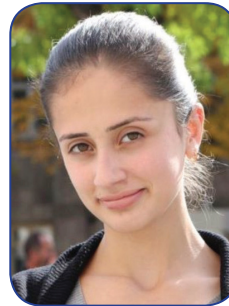
Ani Chatinyan
Legal Advisor
(2010 - to present)



Tatev Siradeghyan
Legal Advisor
(2011 - to present)



Lusine Ngoyan
Program Assistant
(2007 - 2011)



11. HCA VANADZOR OFFICE ANNUAL BUDGET

| | Description of Financial Means | Funding from | Expenses in AMD for 2011 |
|----|---|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 | Contributions | Organization Members | 35,915.00 |
| 2 | Inclusion of the "Law on Missing Persons" in the agenda of the Parliament (MATRA) | Embassy of the Netherlands | 552,900.00 |
| 3 | The activity of the public monitoring group at detention facilities (# 16519,17092) | OSI Assistance Foundation-Armenia | 17,619,471.00 |
| 4 | Institutional Development and Sustainability of HCA Vanadzor (# 7274) | OSI Assistance Foundation-Budapest | 36,178,630.25 |
| 5 | Presentation of British Films | British Embassy | 478,662.00 |
| 6 | Reforms in RA Police System | Norwegian Helsinki Committee | 10,148,600.80 |
| 7 | Training and Networking of Young Human Rights Activists | NED | 14,303,514.40 |
| 8 | Formation of Civil Control over Armed Forces | ICCO | 4,818,240.00 |
| 9 | Case Law in the Process of Implementation of Justice | CASP | 3,284,951.00 |
| 10 | RA criminal policy reform proposals in the context of human rights | CASP | 1,478,136.00 |
| 11 | Human rights monitoring in Mental Health Facilities | OSI-Assistance Fondation -Budapest | 2,435,063.00 |
| 12 | Study on Witness Protection in Armenia | OSCE | 2,191,075.10 |
| 13 | Know Your Rights | "Internews-Armenia" | 344,728.00 |
| | Total | | 93,869,886.55 |