

What We Do

At People in Need, we have been supporting human rights for over 30 years. Our Centre for Human Rights and Democracy supports Civil Society Actors in all their forms in their efforts to defend freedom and human rights – an effort that is now needed more than ever.

Three pillars are core to our work:



Prepare

Our beneficiaries must be prepared to face any challenges that come their way. Hence, we help our beneficiaries to strengthen the organizational capacities, technical skills and to implement new innovative approaches to effectively exercise and promote their rights.



Protect

In modern world state of democracy is on a rapid decline. We support our beneficiaries so they can safely and efficiently continue their work in the face of external challenges. They are supported with flexible assistance and tailored organisational or mental health and psychological support activities that address their acute protection needs.



Promote

Although human rights are inherent to all human beings, their enforcement is enduring a rapid erosion around the planet. Therefore, the necessity of human rights protection must be explained to the policy makers, academics, and the general public. We participate in advocacy meetings, human rights networks and alliances, and we organize various educational events and workshops.



Since 1992, People in Need has grown to be one of the biggest non-profit organisations in Central Europe. In addition to the support of human rights and foreign humanitarian aid, we support education and help people living in social exclusion in the Czech Republic.

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Centre for Human Rights and Democracy



peopleinneed.net/what-we-do/human-rights-support

Where We Help

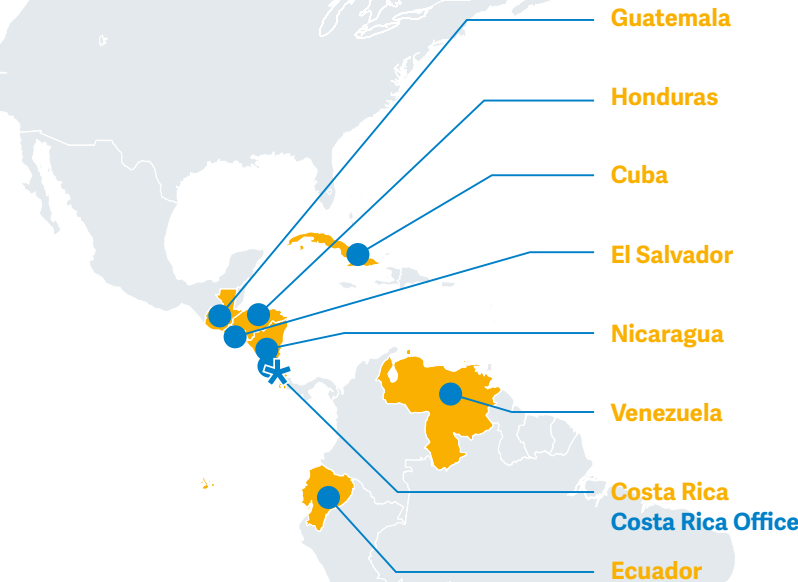
The following are but a few examples of our recent activities & case studies.



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Ecuador

We established a network of indigenous journalists dedicated to reporting on the harmful effects of illegal gold mining on indigenous communities in the Ecuadorian Amazon. The journalists received training from renowned regional reporters. On top of that, we provided editorial fellowships to support the production of investigative articles on the said issues.



Nicaragua

Emergency assistance was provided to 40 Nicaraguan political prisoners. In addition, 15 out of these activists underwent an intensive psychosocial rehabilitation program.



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Venezuela

“We have set up a support network in Colombia to help human rights defenders (HRDs) and activists fleeing persecution in Venezuela. Through collaborative efforts, we provide vital support to individuals seeking refuge in Colombia. This includes legal assistance, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), networking opportunities with key stakeholders, and safe housing.”



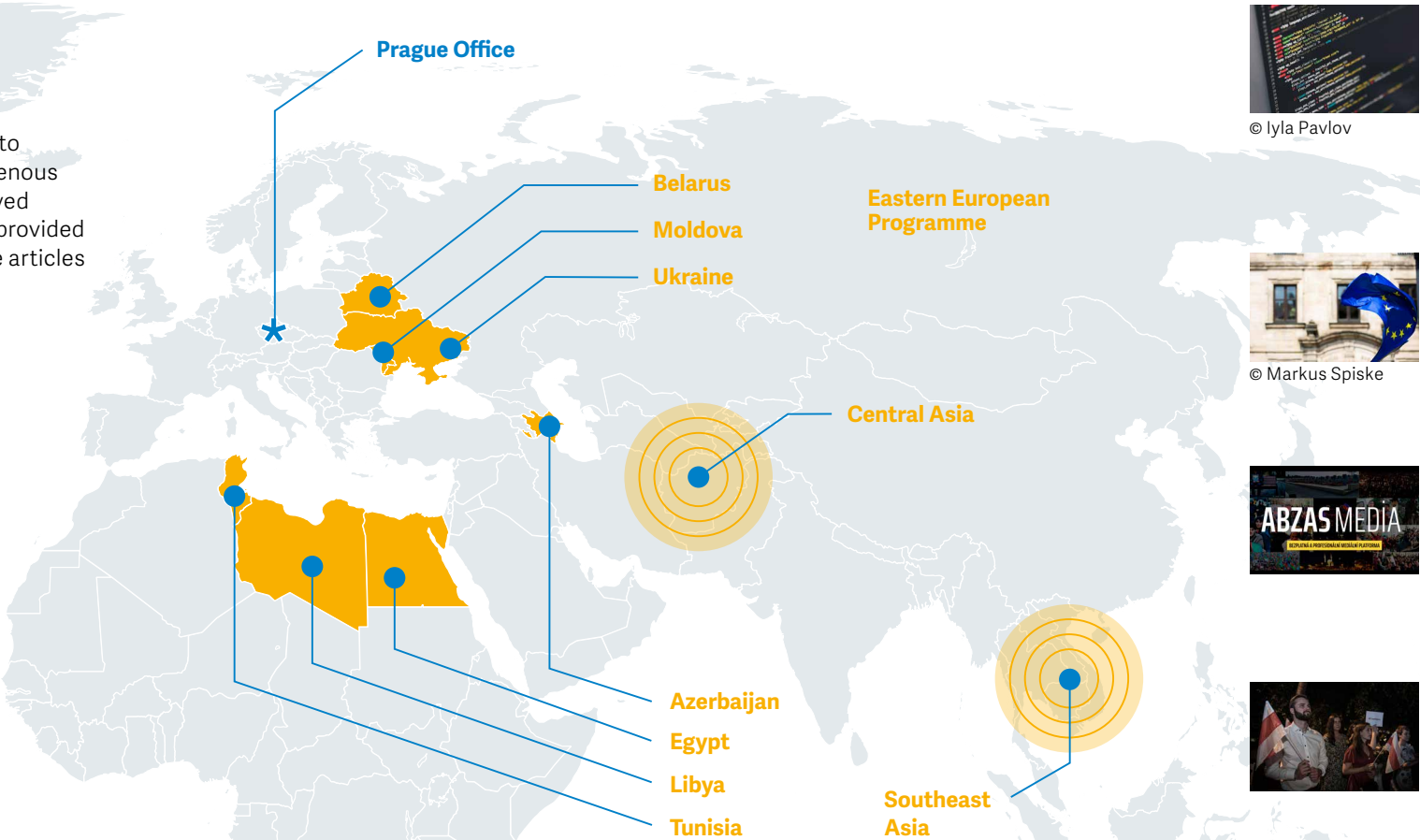
© Great Heart

Ukraine

Through our partnership with Educational Human Rights House – Chernihiv, a Ukrainian civil society union uniting 13 organisations, we supported the documentation of war crimes against educational institutions in Kherson and Sumy oblasts. Monitoring missions revealed that Russian forces used schools to station troops, store weapons, detain and torture civilians, and as firing positions.

Egypt

Many human rights defenders in Egypt are persecuted and arrested due to their work. Among those we have supported is a person advocating for the right to education. We helped them relocate to France, where they were granted asylum. They continue to protect human rights and practice their profession as a physician.



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Libya

Digital space and technologies have been more and more misused to surveil and attack human rights defenders and organisations. We have organised a 4-day-long digital security training and follow-up consultations for members of 6 Libyan CSOs to increase their digital security skills and protect the data of civil society organisations and the people they support.



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East European Programme

We helped a lawyer and regional activist avoid criminal punishment and relocate to another safe country in the European Union. With the support of a trusted partner, the lawyer received a residence permit in an EU country. We covered her relocation and living expenses for 3 months, as well as language courses.



Azerbaijan

We have advocated for the release of more than 20 politically detained journalists in Azerbaijan. We awarded the 2024 Homo Homini Award to Abzas Media, one of Azerbaijan’s most prominent independent media. Abzas Media. The editor-in-chief and five Abzas journalists are facing up to 12 years in prison on fabricated charges.



Belarus

We have implemented a rehabilitation programme for a group of 5 former political prisoners from Belarus. It included a combination of in-person therapy sessions in a safe country and, online group work and targeted workshops with experienced therapists. The activity provided a space for self-reflection, as well as learning various practical techniques to help process or cope with trauma.



Moldova

Independent media faces significant challenges and threats in Moldova. Smear campaigns, financial instability, Russian propaganda, and economic crises negatively impact the work of journalists. We have offered 15 flexible institutional grants to independent media outlets to cover their urgent financial gaps and provided tailored capacity building.



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Central Asia

We organised a 4-day retreat for a team of journalists from Central Asia facing constant threats from local authorities. The programme featured activities to strengthen both individual and team resilience, equipping them with essential tools to combat burnout, reduce stress, and sustain their work in high-pressure environments..