

What Observers Are Saying About IBJ

"If there was functioning rule of law in Rwanda, the 1994 genocide would not have happened. IBJ's commitment to improve the rule of law through effective and competent criminal defense to all persons is enormously important to prevent such tragedies in the future."

— Ms. Anne Gahongayire, Secretary General of the Supreme Court of Rwanda

"It is wrong to assume all suspects are criminals. In fact in India most people accused of crimes are innocent people. Thus, they have become victims of an unfair justice system. Therefore, what IBJ wants to achieve through early access to counsel and creating a robust system of criminal defense could prevent suffering to many ordinary people."

— Hon. K. G. Balakrishnan, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of India

"God bless you and wish you more successes in the wonderful initiatives you promote. It makes such a huge difference that I am not sure you know its rippling effects in the globe. Small initiatives like yours can make a bigger difference than the hugely invested initiatives we have seen characterized by mismatched resources to promoting justice in communities."

-Amadu Sidi Bah, JusticeMakers Competition Finalist, Sierra Leone

IBJ's Founder - Karen Tse

Karen Tse, an ordained minister, was a public defender before she went to Cambodia with the UN in 1994 to assist in the rebuilding of its devastated legal system. Recognizing that Cambodia's needs were not unique, she was inspired to create International



Bridges to Justice. "I remember peering through a prison cell and talking with a boy who had been arrested and tortured. He was just a boy who had tried to steal a bicycle and he had no one to defend him." Since then, Karen has worked to implement existing laws prohibiting torture and systematic abuses of prisoners.

How You Can Help

There are many ways you can help IBJ end torture in the 21st Century:

- **Train legal aid lawyers**
- **Work as a volunteer in your area of expertise**
- **Donate or loan technology**
- **Provide corporate sponsorship of programs**
- **Make a tax-deductible donation at www.ibj.org/donate**

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Justice Can't Wait.



International Bridges to Justice



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(Photo courtesy of Taylor Weidman.)

Anita Mugeni, pictured below, is one of only 310 lawyers in Rwanda, a country of 10.2 million people. Trained by IBJ, Anita takes on cases without being asked, without recognition, without pay, and at personal risk to herself. Police beat one woman so severely that she confessed to killing a neighbor who was actually alive and well. Without a lawyer to represent her, she was sentenced to death. Anita took her case and won her acquittal and release from prison.



Ending Police Torture is Everyone's Business

IBJ's Vision

Until recently, requests from public defenders and legal aid lawyers for international support were ignored. Old legal systems remained entrenched despite new laws.

IBJ bridges the gap between the old and new systems by focusing on the local implementation of laws safeguarding citizen rights. IBJ strengthens the critical and neglected legal defense side of the justice system.

IBJ's pioneering mission is dedicated to ensuring that men, women, and children in all countries have basic legal rights, legal representation, protection from torture, and fair trials.

IBJ doesn't just train lawyers. IBJ also empowers local leaders to build movements based on the bedrock of laws that protect citizens' rights.

IBJ's Innovation

IBJ has built an international network of legal defense resources for lawyers and legal activists that provides mutual support and skill building. IBJ has also created a global support movement of legal rights for all victims of police torture. IBJ works with legal aid lawyers and other local partners to transform legal systems.

IBJ collaborates with government ministries to create consensus for change, identifies and trains leaders to initiate legal reform in their countries, provides essential support through local and international partnerships, and conducts legal-rights awareness campaigns.

IBJ's Achievements

- IBJ has negotiated groundbreaking agreements with governments and implemented programs that have transformed the legal landscape in China, India, Cambodia, Zimbabwe, Burundi, and Rwanda.
- IBJ has advanced the legal skills of thousands of lawyers and educated millions of people to demand their legal rights.
- IBJ has pioneered justice innovations in Brazil, Kenya, Nigeria, Swaziland, Nepal, Pakistan and the Philippines by supporting creative projects developed by IBJ JusticeMakers Fellows.
- IBJ is developing an innovative, interactive website devoted to training legal aid workers worldwide.

IBJ's Goals Moving Forward

- Expand IBJ's programs to other countries and create regional training hubs around the world.
- Enable lawyers to access and customize universal legal-defense materials for use in their own countries.
- Promote international support and recognition for lawyers by offering accreditation programs, fellowships, and forums to share ideas on a global level.
- Help governments build and sustain fair, efficient legal defense systems.