

# ***the fund for global human rights***

*human rights are worth the risk*

**Winter 2005**

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The Fund for Global Human Rights is governed and advised by a distinguished, international board of directors. The board is comprised of international human rights experts, funders, and activists from the regions where the Fund operates. Mary Robinson, former U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights and former President of Ireland, serves as Chair.

***Mary Robinson (Chair)***, President, Realizing Rights: The Ethical Globalization Initiative

Mrs. Robinson has served in numerous positions from which she has worked to protect human rights. As President of Ireland from 1990-1997, she emphasized the needs of developing countries by drawing connections between the needs of today and the needs of countries in the past, such as with the Great Irish Famine. After her Presidency, Mrs. Robinson took the position of United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. During her term, she focused on implementing Secretary-General Kofi Annan's reform proposal to integrate human rights concerns in all the activities of the United Nations. Mrs. Robinson founded in 2002 and currently serves as president of Realizing Rights: The Ethical Globalization Initiative, an organization committed to multi-disciplinary thought and action aimed at integrating human rights standards into global governance and policy-making in order to serve as a bridge between the needs of the poorest communities and the global stage. Educated at Trinity College, Mrs. Robinson also holds law degrees from the King's Inns in Dublin and from Harvard University. In addition to chairing the Fund for Global Human Rights, Ms. Robinson also serves as Chair of the Council of Women World Leaders, Vice President of the Club of Madrid, honorary President of Oxfam International, Member of the Vaccine Fund Board of Directors and member of the Leadership Council the UN Global Coalition on Women and AIDS. She is a Professor of Practice at Columbia University and member of the Advisory Board of the Earth Institute, and Extraordinary Professor at the University of Pretoria.

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**Mary Ann Stein (Founding Chair)** President, The Moriah Fund

Mary Ann Stein is the President of the Moriah Fund, a private foundation seeking to promote human rights and democracy, help disadvantaged people gain self-sufficiency and control over their lives, foster sustainable development, promote women's rights and reproductive health and protect and preserve the environment. In addition to the Fund for Global Human Rights, Ms. Stein serves on the boards of Americans for Peace Now and the New Israel Fund. A graduate of Wellesley College and George Washington University Law Center, Ms. Stein has chaired several committees, coalitions, and mayoral advisory commissions on family and children's issues. She served on the D.C. Judicial Nominations Commission and has written and published papers on public assistance and child welfare.

**Holly Cartner**, Executive Director, Europe and Central Asia division of Human Rights Watch

As the Executive Director of the Europe and Central Asia division of Human Rights Watch, Ms. Cartner is responsible for overseeing research and advocacy work in over 25 countries in Europe and Central Asia. Ms. Cartner has written extensively on issues of human rights abuses against the Roma minority in Romania and Bulgaria, as well as on xenophobic violence in Germany. During her career, Ms. Cartner has also worked as a consultant to various international institutions including the Open Society Institute and the International Helsinki Federation. In addition to the Fund for Global Human Rights, Ms. Cartner serves on the boards of the International Helsinki Federation, the Chechnya Justice Initiative, and the Advisory Committee of the Children's Rights Division of Human Rights Watch. Ms. Cartner earned her Bachelors degree from the University of North Carolina, her Master's degree in political science, and her law degree at Columbia University in New York where she also received a Parker School Certificate in Recognition of Achievement in International Law.

**Hina Jilani**, Director, AGHS Legal Aid Clinic; Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary General on Human Rights Defenders

Hina Jilani has been at the forefront of the movement for peace, human rights and women's rights in Pakistan for the last two decades. A founding member of the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan, Jilani currently serves as the Commission's vice president. She is an advocate of the Supreme Court of Pakistan, and has steadfastly represented those whose human rights have been violated, including victims of domestic violence, fundamentalist violence, and so-called "honor killings," as well as bonded workers. In 2001, Ms. Jilani was appointed Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General on the situation of human rights defenders. In that same year, she was also awarded the Millennium Peace Prize, the first award of its kind to recognize women who have made outstanding contributions to building peace.

**Josh Mailman**, President, Sirius Business Corporation

Mr. Mailman has helped start several grantmaking foundations and philanthropic business initiatives since the early 1980s, including the Threshold Foundation and the Social Venture Network, which brings together private investors, company founders and social entrepreneurs with a shared

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commitment to create a more just and sustainable society through business. He co-founded Business for Social Responsibility in 1992, now one of the largest national organizations focused on promoting business and social responsibility simultaneously. Mr. Mailman is a trustee of the Sigrid Rausing Trust, an advisor to the Rudolf Steiner Foundation, and a board member of the Mailman Foundation. In addition to the Fund, Mr. Mailman serves on the boards of Human Rights Watch, Witness, Sierra Madre Alliance, Blacksmith Institute, Afropop Worldwide, and the Environmental Defenders Law Center.

***Chidi Anselm Odinkalu, Senior Legal Officer, Open Society Justice Initiative***

Mr. Odinkalu has worked extensively with groups based in Africa. He is the author of many reports, articles, and books on human rights issues, including *Justice Denied: the Area Courts System in the Northern States of Nigeria* and “Why More Africans Don’t Use Human Rights Language.” Mr. Odinkalu’s work has also focused on penal reform, refugees, and women’s rights under customary law and he emphasizes the dangers of adopting an elitist approach to human rights advocacy. He currently serves as the Senior Legal Officer for Africa at Open Society Justice Initiative, a program which pursues law reform activities grounded in the protection of human rights. Before the Open Society Justice Initiative, Mr. Odinkalu worked with and/or advised the Ford Foundation, the Carnegie Council on Ethics and International Affairs, the International Centre for the Legal Protection of Human Rights in London, and the United Nations Observer Mission in Sierra Leone. Mr. Odinkalu is a former Brandeis International Fellow at the Centre for Ethics, Justice and Public Life of the Brandeis University, and Lecturer at the Harvard Law School.

***Mona Younis, Program Officer, Mertz Gilmore Foundation***

Mona Younis is human rights program officer at the Mertz Gilmore Foundation in New York. From 2000-2005 she also served as coordinator of the International Human Rights Funders Group, an international network of over 400 grantmakers committed to human rights. A founding board member of the Fund for Global Human Rights, she joined the philanthropic community after a decade of research, teaching, consulting and community organizing in the Middle East and the U.S. She received a Ph.D. in sociology from the University of California at Berkeley in 1996 and is author of *Liberation and Democratization: The South African and Palestinian National Movements Compared* (University of Minnesota Press, 2000).

***Mariclaire Acosta Urquidi***, Founder, Comisión Mexicana de Defensa y Promoción de los Derechos Humanos (Mexican Commission for the Defense and Promotion of Human Rights)

Mariclaire Acosta Urquidi is the former subsecretary for Human Rights and Democracy in the Secretariat of Foreign Relations Office in Mexico. Her career in the field of human rights has led her on missions ranging from investigating the treatment of immigrants in the United States to studying the effects of violence in Colombia. Currently she is a member of the Advisory Council on Foreign Relations and a board member for the Center for Justice and International Law (CEJIL).

***Kemal Ahmed***, is the founding partner of Old Square Capital Investment Advisors, an emerging markets focused fund of managers. Most recently Mr. Ahmed served as Managing Director for Brown University's Investment Office where he was a member of an investment team responsible for managing the university's \$2 billion investment portfolio. Previously he was Chief Equities Officer for Calvert Asset Management, a Washington, D.C. based mutual fund family, with over \$9 billion in assets. Prior to Calvert, Mr. Ahmed served eight years with the World Bank Group. As a Senior Investment Officer in the Bank's Treasury Department he was a member of an investment team responsible for \$60 billion in assets. Mr. Ahmed also spent five years with the International Finance Corporation's Capital Markets Department where he focused on providing debt and equity financing to industrial businesses and financial intermediaries. As part of an IFC/World Bank team, he consulted with the governments of Indonesia, Morocco, Sri Lanka and Thailand on the drafting of legislation enabling mortgage-, and asset-backed securitization. Prior to the World Bank Group, Mr. Ahmed served as a corporate banker for four years with Bank of America. After completing a management training program he worked in international trade finance and asset-based ending. Mr. Ahmed has an MA, with distinctions, from the Johns Hopkins University and graduated Phi Beta Kappa from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. He has also earned a Diploma in International Factoring. He currently serves on the board of the Rhode Island affiliate of the American Civil Liberties Union. Kemal has served on the Advisory Board of the Blakeney General Partners II Limited, an emerging markets fund.