



**LAWYERS FOR
LAWYERS**

ANNUAL REPORT

ACTIVITIES 2010

I INTRODUCTION

Background

Lawyers for Lawyers (L4L) is an independent Dutch foundation with the status of an Institution for the Promotion of the Public Interest. **L4L** was established in 1986 on the initiative of the Professional Lawyers of *Amnesty International* Netherlands, supported by the Dutch Bar Association, the Dutch Legal Committee for Human Rights (NJCM) and the Study and Information Center Human Rights (SIM).

Objectives

In accordance with international law and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the *Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers* and the *Declaration on Human Rights Defenders* of the United Nations, **L4L** is committed to promoting the ability of lawyers to practise law freely and independently.

Approach

L4L provides financial, moral and legal support to oppressed lawyers and lawyers' organisations. We provide such support by bringing the position of threatened lawyers throughout the world to the attention of international legal and political institutions, civil society organisations and the relevant authorities of the country in which the lawyer in question is based. In particular, we stress the importance of compliance with the *Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers*. We also organise fact-finding or observation missions and letter-writing campaigns. When appropriate, we mobilise lawyers to provide legal assistance to oppressed lawyers. We try to tailor this support as much as possible to the specific need(s) of the lawyer or lawyers' organisations concerned. We also (help to) organise and participate in workshops, seminars and conferences regarding the position of threatened and obstructed lawyers. In addition, we write a regular column in *Advocatenblad* and publish in other legal magazines in the Netherlands.

Organisation

L4L has a board consisting of (former) lawyers and human rights specialists. A managing director is responsible for the day-to-day work. Regions that require special attention are monitored by groups of volunteers that may take

action in consultation with the board. Where appropriate, **L4L** also engages working students.

Financing

Being a foundation, **L4L** does not have any members. For its income, the foundation depends entirely on donations. Our sponsors are mostly individual lawyers, law firms and lawyers' organisations.

II ACTIONS FOR LAWYERS IN 2010

In 2010 many lawyers continued to be obstructed or threatened in the performance of their work. We took action for lawyers in numerous countries including: China, Colombia, Guatemala, Honduras, Iran, Kyrgyzstan, Mexico, the Philippines, Rwanda, Sri Lanka, Syria and Vietnam.

Overview per country

China



In 2010, various lawyers in China were again hindered in the free practice of law. **Gao Zhisheng**, a well-known critic of the Communist Party, disappeared in February 2009. In February 2010, exactly one year after he had last been heard of, **L4L** organised a letter-writing campaign to draw attention to his situation. Shortly afterwards, by mid-March, Gao Zhisheng reappeared and gave a brief telephone interview to journalists. He told them he had been sentenced for subversive activities - he was released at the end of September 2009. Since then he has lived in retirement in northern China. It is suspected that he has been under police surveillance since his release. In early April Gao Zhisheng returned to Beijing, where he lived and worked as a lawyer until February 2009. While in Beijing, he stated that he no longer wished to act as a human rights lawyer. On 20 April he disappeared again. Since then, he has not been heard of and his whereabouts are unknown. Because of Gao Zhisheng's work, his wife and children were also in danger as long as they remained in China. As a result, they were forced to flee to the United States. There, in August, his

daughter accepted the *International Human Rights Lawyer Award* from the American Bar Association on his behalf.

Tang Jitian and **Liu Wei**, both lawyers from Beijing, had their licences revoked on 7 May for having disrupted the order of the court in April. Earlier, the *Judicial Bureau* established that the evidence for this charge was insufficient; the lawyers had merely left the room after their request to make film recordings of their clients had been rejected. The lawyers were defending a follower of the banned Falung Gong spiritual movement. Not renewing or revoking licences is a tested means to thwart the work of lawyers who handle such 'sensitive' cases. Without a licence, for instance, it is not permitted to represent clients in court.



Mo Shaoping, the lawyer of Liu Xiaobo, the 2010 Nobel Peace Prize winner, was barred by the Chinese authorities from leaving the country when he wanted to attend a conference hosted by the *International Bar Association*. Mo Shaoping and his travelling companion, law professor He Weifan, managed to circumvent the travel ban and attend the conference. The authorities told Mo Shaoping that by leaving China, he would be posing a threat to state security. He suspected that the real reason was to stop him attending the Nobel Prize presentation ceremony on the 10th of December; the Chinese authorities wished prevent him from receiving the Peace Prize on behalf of the winner, Liu Xiaobo.

Colombia

On the 5th of March 2010 the *International Commission of Jurists Colombia* (CCJ) and the Colombian NGO *Corporación Reiniciar* submitted a request to declare certain articles of Act 1288, which dates from 2009, unconstitutional. The Act "... sets the standards that provide the legal basis to activities of intelligence and counter-intelligence agencies so that they can exercise their institutional and legal functions." To add weight to the petition, *CCJ* filed an *amicus curiae*

letter with the constitutional court of Colombia, which summarizes existing international standards concerning the protection of human rights by the intelligence agencies. The purpose of the *amicus* is that the court, when deciding on the petition, will incorporate those international standards in its analysis.

By way of support, **L4L** signed a so-called 'adhesion' annexed to the *amicus*, because the lack of adequate controls on intelligence activities contributes to the fact that many lawyers in Colombia cannot exercise their profession unhindered. The far-reaching powers of intelligence agencies allow them, for instance, to listen in on lawyers.

In August **L4L** also participated in an international fact-finding and observation mission in Colombia. The purpose of this mission was to map the situation of lawyers in the country. Since 2008, the position of human rights activities and lawyers, and the human rights situation in general, appears to have deteriorated significantly. In this '*Caravana internacional de Juristas*', 56 lawyers from 13 countries participated, including a board member and the managing director of **L4L**. Members of the delegation spoke with (high-ranking) officials, including the vice-president of Colombia, as well as representatives from various communities, such as the *Afro-Colombians* and indigenous peoples from 8 regions and 14 towns. These communities and anyone, including lawyers, who stands up for their interests are frequently subjected to persistent and serious violations of their fundamental human rights. This includes threats, assassination attempts and assassinations.



The Caravana visit took place shortly after the inauguration of the new president. In his inaugural speech, the new President announced that he would no longer stigmatize defenders of human rights. Similar commitments were made by government officials in their meetings with members of the delegation. The Caravana report is scheduled to appear in the course of 2011.



In 2010, **L4L** spoke to members of the Colombian

lawyers' collective *José Alvear Restrepo* (CAJAR). In September, CAJAR wanted to press charges against the then President Uribe. In response, prominent supporters of Uribe from the Colombian political scene organised a demonstration, calling the lawyers' collective a terrorist organisation allied with the rebel group FARC. Later, incidents of threats and eavesdropping on individual CAJAR members were reported.

During 2010, lawyers who provided legal representation to victims of extrajudicial executions in Colombia were regular targets for threats. **L4L** organised a letter-writing campaign for three of them.

The first is **Jorg Eliecer Molano**. Molano provides legal support to persons in cases where organisations and human rights defenders are spied upon by national intelligence agencies, and in cases concerning extrajudicial executions. In December 2009 an attempt was made to break into his home. His mobile telephone was tapped as well.



The second is **Leonardo Jaimes Marín**. Marín supports members of the families of three men who disappeared on 28 March 2008. According to the family members, these men were at the behest of the army. The murders are said to have been committed by ten soldiers. In connection with the court cases against these soldiers, a man approached Leonardo Jaimes Martin on 13 October 2010 telling him an order had been issued to execute him and the family members of the victims. The order was allegedly issued by one of the superiors of the charged soldiers.

The third lawyer **L4L** took action for is **William Cristancho Duarte**. His work included cases concerning two local farmers who had been killed during a military operation in 2007. Initially, an attempt was made to make it look as if the two farmers were members of a guerrilla group that had been killed in a shootout. On 26 October 2010 William Cristancho was threatened, shortly after attending a hearing with court officials where the case and possible arrest of persons, allegedly involved in the killing, was handled. On 10 December 2010 two bullets were fired at his car.



Guatemala

Lawyer **Juan Antonio Chea** was killed on 17 February. He was shot in Cobán, central Guatemala, by unknown gunmen. The Mayan lawyer had been working with the *Human Rights Office of the Archbishop* (ODHA) and the *National Reparations Programme* (PNR), one of the cornerstones of the reconciliation policy pursued after the protracted, 36-year civil war. The motive for the murder is unclear. In January and February, three other human rights activists were killed in Guatemala.

Honduras

In June 2009, a *coup d'état* changed the political landscape of Honduras. Manuel Zelaya was ousted, and in November, Porfirio Lobo was elected as the new president. This change of power, and the present regime, was and is broadly supported, but there is also resistance. Since the coup, the Honduran police force has increasingly resorted to violence to suppress demonstrations against the present regime.

Kenia Olivia Cardona supported the victims of such police brutality. On 21 June 2010, while at the Public Prosecutor's office to investigate the status of several human rights lawsuits initiated by her organisation, her car was ransacked, her papers searched and her laptop stolen. Her course material from a human rights course she had been attending was taken as well. Kenia's car had been the target of vandalism before. Human rights organisations suspect that Kenia was intimidated in order to hinder her in her work. In October, a lawyer (whose name has been withheld for her personal safety), who worked for the Honduran *Association for a more Just Society* (ASJ) was kidnapped and threatened with death. This was done to warn her to abandon her investigation into a private security firm. In November the life of a member of the Legal Team of ASJ was threatened due to an investigation into corruption in the Honduran educational and health care system.

Iran

The situation of human rights lawyers in Iran deteriorated dramatically in 2010. During the



year, lawyers were forced to flee abroad because of their legitimate efforts to improve the human rights situation and their handling of politically sensitive matters. Also

lawyers were arrested and detained, such as **Maryam Ghanbari**, who was arrested on 8 February and detained in the notorious Evin prison in Teheran. Twenty days later, on 28 February, she was released after a bail equivalent to USD 50,000 had been paid. Her arrest was probably connected to her work for *Volunteer Lawyers Network*, a law service for vulnerable women. She had also opposed a new bill dealing with divorce and custody. **L4L** organised a letter-writing campaign, urging the release of Ghanbari.

In February, **Mohammad Olyaeifard** was sentenced to one year in prison, which he has been serving as of 1 May 2010. He defended juveniles sentenced to death and was arrested for the first time after making critical comments in an interview about Iranian legal procedures following the hanging of his client Behnoud Shojaee. Shojaee was given the death penalty for a murder he had committed as a juvenile.



Shadi Sadr, an Iranian lawyer who received several human rights awards, was sentenced in absentia to a prison term of six years and 74 lashes on 16 May 2010. She was accused of acting against national security and disrupting public order during a peaceful demonstration in 2007, when four female human rights activists were on trial. As a lawyer, journalist and investigator, she has diligently fought for the rights of women in Iran for many years. Human rights organisations, including **L4L**, assume that the sentence was handed out to frustrate Shadi Sadr's work. She was not present in court herself when the verdict was pronounced, being in Europe at the time. Since then, she has been forced to remain there. **L4L** organised a letter-writing campaign after the verdict. **L4L** also invited her to speak at the annual congress of the Dutch Bar Association on 24 September.

Like Shadi Sadr, and previously **Shirin Ebadi**, **Mohammed Mostafaei** is also unable to work in Iran. He stood up for juveniles sentenced to death, including stoning, for example



Sakineh Ashtiani Mohammadi, whose conviction sparked considerable international indignation. Because of his efforts for Ashtiani, a warrant was issued for Mostafaei's arrest by the end of June. As he could not be traced, his wife and her brother were arrested instead. When it became known that Mostafaei had managed to escape to Norway, they were released. The arrest warrant means that Mostafaei can no longer return to Iran. Initially, his wife and daughter were left behind in Iran, but the family was eventually reunited in Norway. **L4L** has organised a letter-writing campaign to raise awareness for the situation facing Mostafaei and his family. It urged the Iranian authorities to withdraw the arrest warrant and to comply with the applicable human rights treaties.

The defence in the case of Sakineh Ashtiani Mohammadi was taken over by **Houtan Kian**, who was consequently arrested in October. He is presently still being detained. He has been reportedly sentenced to one year in prison and banned from working as a lawyer for five years, but other charges may still be brought against him. The investigation against him apparently focused on his alleged ties with "foreign, anti-revolutionary groups".

In the letter-writing campaign for Houtan Kian, attention was also drawn to the situation of **Nasrin Sotoudeh**, following an earlier letter-writing campaign for her in September. She acted as a lawyer for human rights defenders and juveniles sentenced to death. Late in August her office was searched, and various documents and a computer were taken. A week later she was summoned to appear at Evin prison, where she was questioned and finally arrested. She went on hunger strike three times: in October, November and December. Her trial started in November and ended in 2011 with an 11-year prison sentence and a 20-year work and travel ban.



The arrests of **Sarah Sabaghian**, **Maryam Kianarsi**, **Hosein Nayeti**, **Maryam Karbasi** and **Roza Gharachorlou** in November are thought to be related to their call for the release of Nasrin Sotoudeh. The latter two lawyers were released shortly after their arrest, the other three were detained for a month.



Public prosecutors have also investigated the founders of the *Defenders of Human Rights Center* (DHRC) in 2010. The aforementioned Shirin Ebadi founded the DHRC with, amongst others, **Mohammad Ali Dadkhah**, **Abdolfattah Soltani** and **Mohammad Seifzadeh**. Mr Seifzadeh was sentenced to a nine-year prison term by the end of October. He is also prohibited from practising law for a period of 10 years. This kind of working ban had not been imposed before on a lawyer together with a prison term. It happened again later in 2010 to Nasrin Sotoudeh. The working ban was imposed by a court that had no jurisdiction to hear the case. Co-founders Mohammad Ali Dadkhah and Abdolfattah Soltani were also prosecuted, but so far this has not resulted in an arrest warrant or any specific charges.

L4L regularly consults other non-governmental organisations on the strategy they should pursue to help lawyers in Iran.

Kyrgyzstan

Late September, lawyer **Tahir Asanov** was attacked and punched several times, first in the courthouse, later outside. Asanov was representing a client suspected of murdering a police chief. During the hearing his client was attacked and beaten in the courthouse. When Asanov asked the court to investigate the maltreatment of his client, he was verbally and physically assaulted in the courthouse by family members of the murdered police chief. Neither the judges nor the courtroom officials intervened. **L4L** organised a letter-writing campaign to bring the matter to the attention of the authorities, to urge them to conduct an investigation and to guarantee the safety of Asanov.

Mexico

On 3 May 2010 **L4L** met with the Mexican lawyer **Alba Cruz Ramos**. Through Alba's work, many political prisoners in the Oaxaca region have been released. In a case initiated by



Alba and her "*Comité 25 Noviembre*", the Mexican Supreme Court found that the governor of Oaxaca and eight others were to be held responsible for torturing political prisoners. However, no prosecution was initiated. Alba and her family are constantly and seriously threatened because of her work. The *Inter-American Commission on Human Rights* has demanded that the Mexican government take protective measures. To date, this has not happened. **L4L** organised a letter-writing campaign to try to help Alba Cruz and urge the authorities to proceed with the prosecution.

L4L has also stood up for **Blanca Mesina**, a lawyer the foundation met in June. Blanca Mesina works in the Mexican city of Tijuana, where the independence of the police is under great strain. Officers use torture to obtain testimonies. Mesina draws attention to cases of human rights violations by litigating before local and federal courts. Because of her work, Blanca frequently receives death threats. Her situation deteriorated to such an extent over the past six months that she was forced to leave Tijuana. The work of people like Blanca Mesina is vital to improve the human rights situation in Tijuana.

Philippines



In 2010 presidential elections were held in the Philippines. A new government brought hope for progress for the Philippine people. The political situation had been stable for a while, but two fact-finding missions by **L4L** in 2006 and 2008 showed that human rights defenders in general, and human rights lawyers in particular, are still not always able to operate freely in this country. A major problem is extrajudicial killings, of which lawyers have also been victims. By the end of 2009, the lawyers **Connie Brizuela** (picture above) and Cynthia Oquendo were murdered. **L4L** received various indications that

by mid-2010 the situation had not significantly improved. In the performance of their work, lawyers are still being threatened, intimidated or branded as enemies of the state, partly because they are identified with their clients. During his inauguration, the new President Noynoy Aquino promised that things would improve. For this reason **L4L** sent the new President an open letter in July, urging him to take action and deal seriously with the problem of the extrajudicial killings. Board member Judith Lichtenberg gave a speech at a meeting of *Amnesty International* in November, which focussed attention on the massacre, in which Connie Brizuela was one of the victims. On several occasions **L4L** met with various Philippine lawyers when they visited the Netherlands (also at the invitation of **L4L**), and when they attended a side event in Geneva.

Rwanda



Peter Erlinder, an American lawyer, was arrested on 28 May 2010 in Kigali, Rwanda, sparking international outrage. He was in Rwanda to defend Victoir Ingabire. She was one

of the presidential candidates for the election that was won by the incumbent president Paul Kagame. She lived in the Netherlands both during and after the Rwandese genocide in 1994. Both Erlinder and Ingabire were charged with genocide denial. In April 2010 Erlinder filed charges against President Kagame on behalf of the widows of his predecessors. **L4L** has urged the authorities to provide information, to ensure that lawyers can do their work and to guarantee that in any case (should it come that far), that the trial will be fair. Erlinder was released on bail after three weeks. The reason given for his release was his poor health.

Sri Lanka

On the 2nd of March a news agency website published a list of names of human rights defenders and journalists. This had probably been leaked to the press by the Sri Lanka intelligence agency. The list included the name of a lawyer called **J.C. Weliamuna**. The leaking of



the list was one of a series of intimidations perpetrated against Weliamuna. Also, several articles were published suggesting he had been involved in fraud. As the director of the Sri Lanka department of the anti-corruption organisation *Transparency International*, he had been intimidated before. In September 2008 a hand grenade was thrown at his home after he had acted in a human rights case involving the Ministry of Defence.

Syria

In the spring of 2010, trials were held against the human rights lawyers **Muhannad al-Hassani** (pictured left) and **Haitham al-Maleh** (pictured below). **L4L** was actively engaged in their cases. In May and June, it sent observers to Syria three times to attend the criminal case against Al-Hassani. Twice, they were accompanied by the Dean of the Amsterdam Bar Association, Germ Kemper. The purpose of these observation missions was to bring their cases to the attention of the public and to remind the judicial authorities of their duties in ensuring a fair trial. Sentences were handed out early July 2010 in both cases, with both lawyers receiving a three-year prison sentence.

L4L organised the missions jointly with the Paris based *Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network* (EuroMed-Rights). Delegations from various bar associations from Paris and London also participated in the missions. **L4L** had been given a mandate from both the Amsterdam and Dutch bar associations to attend the trials on their behalf. In addition to attending the hearings, meetings were also held with the presidents of the bar associations of Damascus and Syria, including human right defenders, the justices concerned, public prosecutors, diplomats and family members of the detainees.

No observers were allowed during the trial of the then 79-year old Al-Maleh, as his case was dealt with by a criminal military court.

L4L also organised a letter-writing campaign in March to remind the authorities that the court



cases were being followed closely abroad. The foundation asked its volunteers to participate in a card-sending campaign in honour of Al-Maleh's 80th birthday, to lift the spirits of the lawyer, who was in poor health.

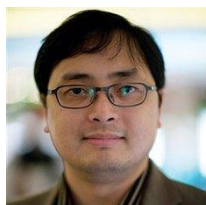
In October the other lawyer, Muhannad al-Hassani, was physically attacked by a cellmate. The resulting wounds required ten stitches. Then, early in November, Al-Hassani was put in solitary confinement. Only after other prisoners protested against this treatment with hunger strikes was Al-Hassani permitted to return to his own cell on 6 November.

In November another Syrian lawyer was imprisoned.

Mustafa Ismail was handed down a seven years jail term in November, later reduced to two and a half years. Ismail is a Kurdish lawyer who has repeatedly defended members of the political opposition, but who also engages actively in the public debate. This was probably the reason for his arrest and prosecution. In October, before the judgment, **L4L** urged the authorities by means of a letter-writing campaign to release Ismail, or at the very least, to guarantee a fair trial.



Vietnam



In January **L4L** organised a letter writing campaign for the Vietnamese lawyer **Le Cong Dinh**. Despite this, on 20 January 2010 he was convicted and given a five-year prison sentence for anti-government propaganda and subversive activities. He was also accused of trying to overthrow the government, a crime that carries the death penalty. The lawyer, who had handled politically sensitive cases in the past, was probably prosecuted for his human rights efforts - particularly the right to free speech. He is not the only Vietnamese lawyer in prison. Two lawyers whose prison sentences had ended in 2010 - **Le Thi Cong Nhan** and **Nguyen Bac Truyen** - were re-arrested several times after their release from prison. They were detained briefly for making made critical comments in interviews about their cases or those of other political prisoners.

III CONTACTS & COLLABORATION WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS

In 2010 **L4L** collaborated and/or kept in contact with representatives of the Dutch *Department of Foreign Affairs* including the Human Rights Ambassador, various members of Parliament, the *Dutch Bar Association*, local bar associations including the *Amsterdam Bar*, the *Human Rights Institute of the International Bar Association* and many other national and international political and legal institutions and human rights organisations, such as *Amnesty International*, the *International Commission of Jurists*, *Lawyers Rights Watch Canada*, the European Union and the United Nations.

In 2010, **L4L** had meetings with **Ms Gabriela Knaul**, the UN Special Rapporteur for the Independence of Lawyers and Judges. In those meetings and with letters, **L4L** informed her of threats against lawyers.

In August, two representatives of **L4L** participated in the '*Caravana Internacional de Juristas*', an observation mission where 56 jurists from various nationalities travelled together through Colombia for six days. One of the main reasons for the mission was to speak in person with lawyers of the Colombian lawyers' collective *José Alvear Restrepo (CAJAR)*, of ICJ Colombia, and the representative of the High Commissioner on Human Rights in Colombia. The added value of the mission was to strengthen the collaboration with international lawyers' organisations.

IV WORKSHOPS EN SEMINARS

Side-event on Protective Measures Geneva

On 3 June 2010 **L4L**, jointly with the Canadian organisation *Lawyers Rights Watch Canada (LRWC)*, *Judges for Judges (J4J)* and the *International Commission of Jurists (ICJ)* organised a so-called side-event about '*Protective Measures*' in Geneva. Side-



events take place on the fringe of plenary meetings of the *UN Human Rights Council*. It was the first time that **L4L** had organised such an event itself, and it was a huge success in several ways. The meeting focused on so-called protective measures: the measures governments should take to protect human rights defenders. The most important questions were: which measures are available, what are the experiences with those measures and how can their use be promoted. The conclusion was threefold. Firstly, more reliance should be placed on existing, soft-law instruments, such as the *Basic Principles of the role of Lawyers*. Secondly, lobbying activities, targeted at the governments of countries where lawyers are frequently repressed, should be expanded. Thirdly, the international network needs to be bolstered, so as to increase awareness of the measures available and the responsibilities of governments in this area.

Other

L4L executive director Adrie van de Streek and board member Judith Lichtenberg held a workshop during a seminar organised by the *Stichting Opleiding Advocaten Alkmaar* and *Jonge Balie Alkmaar*.



On the 24th of September 2010, at the annual conference of the Dutch Bar Association, **L4L** held a session entitled 'Excessive claims, lawyers pay with their jobs or their lives'. Special guest was **Shadi Sadr**, the lawyer who had to flee from Iran and who now continues her work from Europe. In a dialogue with **L4L** President Phon van den Biesen, she explained why she and some of her colleagues can no longer return to their native country. As a lawyer she fought for the release of political prisoners, juveniles sentenced to death and women sentenced to stoning - or at the very least to ensure a fair trial. That this is so difficult to achieve, Sadr said, has to do with the fact that the judiciary is itself part of the problem. Shadi is regularly asked how she can improve the situation in her own country whilst living abroad. She is also worried about those she had to leave behind, particularly her own family members. She asks herself how she can take action here

without endangering them. One thing that certainly has been helpful, she said, is the recognition she and other lawyers get in the form of human rights awards, and the attention this generates. Shadi Sadr cannot fight her battle alone. She explained in a convincing manner how each and every one of us can contribute to that battle. She feels that letter-writing campaigns do work; they are effective because everyone can participate, but she also feels that more needs to be done.

L4L board members spoke at the congress 'A look to the East' of the *Juridische Studenten Vereniging Utrecht* (JSVU; Legal Students Utrecht) about the legal profession in China.

L4L board member Judith Lichtenberg spoke about the impunity of political violence at a meeting organised by Amnesty International. The meeting commemorated the massacre that took place in the Philippines on 23 November 2009, one of the victims of which was the lawyer Connie Brizuela,

V PUBLICATIONS

In 2010, **L4L** published ten issues of the digital publication *Newsflash*. This features the latest news and information about the current activities of **L4L**. Those who wish to receive *Newsflash* can subscribe via the website.

L4L also writes a regular column in *Advocatenblad*, entitled 'Vervolgde Advocaten' (Persecuted Lawyers). The column usually features a lawyer currently under threat, who urgently needs support. In the autumn of 2010, Tatiana Scheltema (a freelance journalist) began writing these columns, which have been given a slightly different format.

Communications from **L4L** appear on a regular basis in '*de Orde van de Dag*', a legal newsletter from the Dutch Bar Association.

Also, an article from Emile Beenakker of **L4L** appeared in *VN Forum*, marking the twentieth anniversary of the *UN Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers*.

VI OTHER ACTIVITIES

L4L published the UN document *Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers* in a handy booklet. The *Basic Principles* is a detailed summary of the manner in which every country in the world must give substance to the right to an independent lawyer, the rights and obligations of lawyers and the safeguards that the authorities must offer and enforce to ensure that lawyers are able to perform their professional duties without hindrance. These booklets are presented by local deans, at the request of **L4L**, to all trainee lawyers when they are sworn in.

L4L is committed to increasing the effectiveness of the *Basic Principles*. One way to achieve this goal is to give them a higher legal status. To investigate how this could be realised, we conducted interviews with representatives of the *International Commission of Jurists*, the Special Rapporteur for the Independence of Lawyers and Judges, the *Human Rights Institute of the International Bar Association* (HRI IBA) and the *Bar Human Rights Committee of England and Wales*.

Volunteer meetings

In 2010, **L4L** again organised a meeting with the **L4L** volunteers. The aim of these meetings is to exchange information and to mobilise them further into *monitoring groups*. These monitoring groups are responsible for monitoring the situation of lawyers in various countries, by maintaining contacts and actively looking for information themselves. They also support concrete actions to support lawyers. In 2010, the following monitoring groups were active: China, Middle and South America, North Africa, Zimbabwe, the Philippines, Iran, Syria, Lebanon, Pakistan/Sri Lanka, Cambodia/Vietnam and Eastern Europe/Russia.

Each focus group is assigned to one member of the board. This way, **L4L** work can be better allocated, and the increasing quantity of information better processed. In addition, volunteers are actively involved in maintaining the website and translating material submitted for this.

VII BOARD

In 2010 the board of **L4L** consisted of the following members:

- Mr Phon van den Biesen (president), Van den Biesen Boesveld Advocaten;
- Mr Joost Italianer (secretary), NautaDutilh;
- Ms Judith Lichtenberg, former lawyer;
- Ms Irma van den Berg, Six Advocaten;
- Ms Marina Brillman, de Brauw Blackstone Advocaten;
- Mr Gerrard Boot (treasurer), sub-district court judge in Amsterdam;
- Mr Ed van Liere (treasurer).

Ms Adrie van de Streek is the executive director of **L4L**.

In 2010, eight board meetings were held: 22 January, 5 March, 16 April, 6 & 7 May, 9 July, August, 3 September, 8 October and 12 November.

VIII FINANCING

Total income generated in 2010 amounted to EUR 94,814. This was more than in 2009, when the total amount of donations, interest and miscellaneous items stood at EUR 72,710.

The reserves are around the maximum level deemed acceptable (1.5 times the annual turnover) by the Herkströter Committee (Committee on Capital Requirements for Charities).

In 2010, **L4L** had to consider whether or not to purchase its own network server; in the end, these costs were not incurred as we were allowed to use the Amsterdam Bar Association's server.

In 2010 lawyers' organisations, including local bar associations, law firms and individual lawyers throughout the Netherlands again supported **L4L's** activities by providing financial and other means of support. This included making available IT facilities, legal and marketing expertise, meeting rooms and other logistics and by highlighting our work at various lawyers' meetings or in publications. Thanks to their support, **L4L** was able to develop a new

corporate identity and start work on a new website.

Fee attendance money and expenses L4L

Fee attendance money

Board members receive no fee attendance money or other allowances for the work they perform for **L4L**, other than the expenses mentioned below.

Expenses

If an employee of **L4L** carries out work at the request of the board and travel or accommodation expenses have to be incurred, these costs are reimbursed within reason. If a board member, or other volunteer, of **L4L** carries out work at the request of the board and travel or accommodation expenses have to be incurred, these costs are reimbursed within reason. If the board decides that the above-mentioned activities need to be undertaken, it also determines the number of participants.

Becoming a donor

To be able to continue our work, we appeal to all lawyers and law firms to support the work of **L4L** financially. **L4L** is a public benefit organization and as such all donations qualify as tax deductible.

Please support *Lawyers for Lawyers* by making a donation to account number 489 938 655 in the name of 'Stichting Advocaten voor Advocaten', Amsterdam.

Making a donation by notarial deed

You can support the work of **L4L** in a tax-advantageous manner by making a donation by notarial deed. With a periodic contribution by notarial deed you support us - and your under-threat colleague lawyers - for a period of five years with a fixed annual amount. The tax terms are favourable, as you can enter your contribution (at least EUR 100 per year) as a tax-deductible item without threshold. **L4L** will pay the notarial fee.

Contact

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