

REPRIEVE



2014 Annual Review  
15 years defending human rights

15 Years defending human rights



## Reprieve 2014 Review

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# 15 years defending human rights



## Ken Macdonald QC, Reprive Chair

Over the last 15 years, Reprive has made the death penalty and abuses committed in the name of the so-called "war on terror" a moral, financial and political nightmare for some of the world's most powerful governments.

We've taken on the biggest human rights challenges of our time – the death penalty, Guantánamo Bay, drone strikes, secret prisons, and torture – and time again, we've won. We uncover the facts on the ground, work with international news outlets to ignite public debate of human rights issues, and fight our clients' cases in courts all over the globe.

Take, for example, the fact that in 2014, four of our clients were released from Guantánamo Bay. Since we began this work in 2002, we've secured the freedom of 69 detainees – more than any other NGO or law firm. An incredible feat for a small, London-based charity.

When traditional legal avenues to free cleared men were

deliberately blocked, we took a different tack – we challenged the conditions of their detention. We took the US government to court over brutal force-feeding sessions and beatings at the prison, and our work paved the way for the release of several of our clients.

Our death penalty team drastically reduced the supply of lethal injection drugs to US execution chambers in 2014. As a result, executions shrank to their lowest level in two decades. We worked with pharmaceutical companies to put distribution controls in place, ensuring that their medicines are used to heal rather than harm. Through this trailblazing work, Reprive is saving lives by making it ever more difficult for US states to carry out the death penalty.

Extreme human rights abuses will continue for as long as they remain cloaked in secrecy. Reprive is a light in the darkness – we expose and challenge these injustices wherever they occur, and our work remains as critical as ever.



# Death Penalty

## Highlights

### In 2014...

We assisted 80 prisoners facing the death penalty around the world, including 30 British nationals • **We saved 19 people from execution, including Briton Hasnain Ali , who was tortured into a 'confession' by UAE police officers** • We won a full evidentiary hearing for Kris Maharaj, a 76 year old Briton who has spent nearly 30 years in prison for a crime he didn't commit • **We campaigned for the release of British grandfather Mohammad Asghar, a mentally ill man who was sentenced to death in Pakistan for blasphemy** • We uncovered new evidence of British grandmother Linda Carty's innocence, shattering the prosecution's case and securing a new court hearing.



New evidence in **Linda Carty's** case could mean a new - and, this time, fair - trial.



Irish teen **Ibrahim Halawa** is facing a mass trial in Egypt after he was caught up in the turmoil of political protests.



We've uncovered fresh evidence in support of our client **Kris Maharaj**, who remains in a Florida jail for a crime he didn't commit.

## USA

We made significant progress in our determined efforts to prove **Kris Maharaj's** innocence. Kris was wrongfully convicted of a double murder nearly 30 years ago, and has been confined to a tiny prison cell ever since. Our undercover investigations revealed that the murders were in fact carried out by a Colombian drug cartel. In April 2014, a Florida judge ordered a full evidentiary hearing on the strength of this new evidence, and in November, a Miami court heard multiple witnesses testify that Kris had been framed. We won't stop until Kris is a free man.

We uncovered explosive new evidence of **Linda Carty's** innocence. Linda was sentenced to death for the murder of Joana Rodriguez in 2001, and has been dangerously close to execution since the US Supreme Court refused to hear her case in 2010. After extensive investigation, we discovered that the key witnesses at Linda's original trial lied, because they were threatened by the prosecutor into testifying against her. In February 2015, the Texas court took the almost unprecedented step of ordering a hearing to assess the new evidence in her case. Finally, Linda will get a day in court that is not rigged against her from the start.

Reprive also assisted around 30 other prisoners facing the death penalty in the US. We worked

with European governments and institutions to support our clients on death row and facing capital charges.

## Middle East and North Africa

Reprive has uncovered a systematic use of torture in the UAE to extract 'confessions' from desperate prisoners that lead to death sentences. In 2014, we saved the lives of several young men who had been tortured into giving false confessions, and were facing the hangman's noose.

**Hasnain Ali** is a British national who faced a death sentence after the Dubai police tortured him into confessing to drugs charges. After Reprive took up his case and presented evidence of his torture to the court, he was acquitted of all charges in April 2014.

We also sought justice for British student **Ahmad Zeidan** and Irish teenager **Ibrahim Halawa**.

Ahmad was brutally tortured by Dubai police. He was hooded and kept in solitary confinement for two days, stripped naked, threatened with rape, and viciously beaten. He was also denied contact with his family – for eight days, they had no idea where he was, or what had happened to him.

Ahmad was tortured into signing a false confession and sentenced to nine years in prison in the UAE. With Reprive's help, he is seeking justice for his torture and abuse at the hands of the authorities.

Ibrahim was arrested and tortured after being caught up in the turmoil of political protests while on holiday in Egypt. He is facing a mass trial with 493 others, and if found guilty, could be sentenced to death - even though he was just 17 at the time of his arrest. We are doing all we can to secure his release and safe return to his family in Ireland.

## Pakistan

In November, a policeman burst into our client Mohammad Asghar's cell and shot him. We've been campaigning for Mohammad's release, and after the shooting, managed to get him moved to a hospital.

Mohammad is a mentally ill British grandfather, who was sentenced to death in Pakistan for blasphemy.

Nearly 80,000 people signed our petition to David Cameron, asking the UK government to intervene on Mohammad's behalf and secure his safe return to the UK. As a result, David Cameron publicly raised the case with Pakistan's Prime Minister. We are still calling for his release.

## South East Asia

We continued to assist vulnerable people used to traffick drugs and subsequently facing the death penalty in the region.

In 2014, we saved five European nationals from execution in Indonesia.

# Stop Lethal Injection Project

## Highlights

### In 2014...

We helped secure the lowest number of US executions in 20 years • **Just seven of the 32 states that have the death penalty carried out executions** • Over half of the stays of execution issued in 2014 were as a result of drug shortages and lethal injection challenges • **We continued to pull apart the myth of the “humane execution”, so that public support for the death penalty fell to its lowest level in 40 years** • We helped secure official moratoria on executions as a result of lethal injection drug shortages in Oklahoma, Ohio, Louisiana, Kentucky and Pennsylvania • **President Obama ordered a national review of capital punishment when lethal injection problems were exposed by a high-profile botched execution.**

By HOLLY WILLIAMS / CBS NEWS / April 30, 2014, 7:31 PM

# Meet the woman behind a shortage of execution drugs



Our trailblazing **Stop Lethal Injection Project** has exposed the myth of the “humane execution”, shifted public opinion around the death penalty, and prompted President Obama to order a national review of capital punishment.

Thanks to Maya Foa – or “the woman behind the shortage of lethal injection drugs”, as CBS News called her – the annual rate of executions in the US fell to its lowest in 20 years. Just seven of the 32 states that have the death penalty were able to carry out executions, and over half of the stays of execution issued in 2014 (22 out of 43) were on lethal injection grounds.

Five states put in place official moratoria on executions, and public support for the death penalty fell to its lowest level in 40 years.

We continued to work with manufacturers of drugs that were being used or at risk of being used in executions.

We helped a further seven companies to put in place distribution controls to ensure that their products could still reach legitimate medical users, but not executioners.

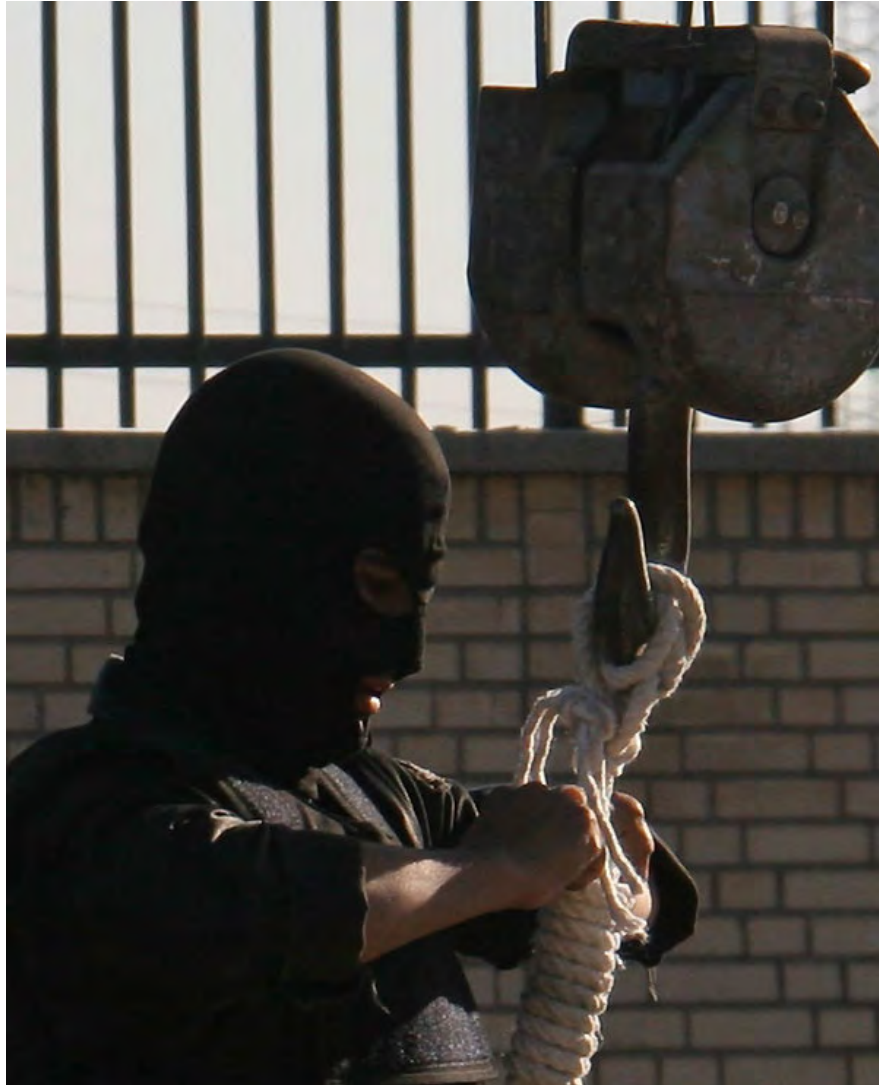
# Stop Aid for Executions

## Highlights

### In 2014...

We saved British mother Khadija Shah's life after she was coerced into trafficking drugs in Pakistan, and highlighted how British counter-narcotics aid funded her arrest • **We discovered that European taxpayers' money has funded more than 3,000 executions in Iran and at least 112 death sentences in Pakistan**

- We campaigned for European counter-narcotics aid and assistance to be made conditional on human rights compliance and abolition of the death penalty for drug offences
- **Two European governments stopped funding counter-narcotics operations in Iran because of the links between the aid and executions**
- We conducted a huge survey of the 8,000 people on Pakistan's death row, including all those sentenced to death for drug offences, and assisted several of these prisoners.



**A masked executioner** prepares the noose for a hanging in Iran

**Our Stop Aid for Executions (SAFE) project aims to end European states' counter-narcotics funding for countries which impose the death penalty for drug offences.**

In 2014, we published a report which revealed that European governments have provided more than £45 million worth of aid and assistance to aggressive law enforcement operations in Iran and Pakistan, which have led to more than 3,000 executions in Iran, and at least 112 death sentences in Pakistan.

States in this position include the UK, Italy, Germany, France, Denmark, and Norway. Reprieve campaigned for these countries to make their counter-narcotics aid and assistance conditional on human rights compliance and abolition of the death penalty for drug offences.

We also assisted many of the victims of European-funded death penalty prosecutions, including young British mother Khadija Shah. Khadija was heavily pregnant at the time of her arrest and gave birth while in prison. We saved Khadija and two other vulnerable women who had been used as drug mules from execution.



**Khadija Shah and her baby Malaika** in the notorious Adiala Jail in Pakistan

# Guantánamo Bay

## Highlights

### In 2014...

We secured the release of four men - Ahmed Belbacha, Hisham Sliti, Abu Wa'el Dhiab and Adel Hakeemy •

**We continued to represent 14 detainees held in the prison** • We assisted 16 former detainees and their families through our Life After Guantánamo programme • We won a landmark ruling in the US courts that Guantánamo prisoners have the right to challenge the conditions of their detention • **We launched the first ever US legal challenge to abusive methods of force-feeding at Guantánamo Bay on behalf of hunger-striking detainees** • We took the US government to court over its refusal to release video footage of men being abusively force-fed, and won • **We worked with local lawyers to overturn a 20-year in absentia prison sentence faced by a former detainee on his return home.**



**Adel Hakeemy** was kidnapped by Pakistani forces and handed over to American forces who tortured him. He was detained at Guantánamo Bay for 13 years, until he was eventually released in December 2014.



**Shaker Aamer** has been held in Guantánamo Bay for 13 years without charge or trial. He has been cleared for release twice, but the US will not let him go. His wife and four children await his return in London.



**Guantánamo detainees** on hunger strike continue to be brutally force-fed up to twice a day. They are beaten, dragged from their cells, and strapped into this chair, where they endure the abusive force-feeding process.



In 2014, we secured the release of four men from Guantánamo Bay - Abu Wa'el Dhiab, Ahmed Belbacha, Hisham Sliti and Adel Hakeemy. They were freed without charge, and are now rebuilding their lives with the help of Reprive's Life After Guantánamo team.

In February, we had a momentous day in the US courts when Judge Gladys Kessler ruled in the landmark judgment of **Aamer v Obama** that hunger-striking Guantánamo detainees, including the last remaining British resident, **Shaker Aamer**, have the right to challenge the conditions of their detention.

The judgment we secured in **Aamer v Obama** meant that we could litigate on behalf of our client, cleared Syrian hunger striker, **Abu Wa'el Dhiab**, against abusive force-feeding tactics. In July, Judge Kessler ordered

the US government to produce video footage of Abu Wa'el being dragged from his cell and violently force-fed. The judge also ordered the government to release the videotapes of Abu Wa'el's abuse to the 16 press organisations that intervened in our litigation, so that the public could see them.

Thanks to our determined efforts to expose the abuse of Guantánamo detainees by those in charge of the prison, 2014 saw the highest number of men released in years. 28 former Guantánamo detainees were finally freed, and transferred to countries all over the world.

We provided legal, social and psychological support to 16 former detainees and their families through our unique **Life After Guantánamo** programme, helping them with the long process of rebuilding their lives after years of detention and torture.



# Drones Strikes



## Highlights

### In 2014...

We brought Pakistani drone strike survivors and journalists to meet MPs, government officials and the media in Berlin, Brussels and London • **We uncovered and published evidence that the US government killed an estimated 1,147 people in an attempt to target just 41 men** • We helped the families of Yemeni drone victims to take legal action against the German government for facilitating US drone strikes against their relatives – the first such litigation in Germany • **We investigated and exposed a deadly US drone strike on a wedding party, sparking a White House investigation and resulting in victims' compensation of US\$ 1.24m** • We brought a claim to the International Criminal Court against US NATO allies for facilitating the deadly and illegal drones programme.



**Faisal bin Ali Jaber** in Washington, DC, meeting with members of Congress to talk about the drone strike that killed two of his relatives.



**A scene of utter devastation** in North Waziristan, Pakistan, following a US drone strike.



**A US military drone** in the skies over Pakistan.



Reprieve continued to lead the fight against extra-judicial killing in Pakistan and Yemen. We put survivors and victims' families at the centre of a debate which had previously excluded them. We are one of the few organisations helping the hundreds of people in Pakistan and Yemen whose lives have been devastated by these illegal attacks.

In February, we brought Noor Behram and Kareem Khan, survivors and journalists from North Waziristan, in north-west Pakistan, to speak to MPs, government officials and the media in Berlin, Brussels and London about the catastrophic consequences of drone strikes.

In Yemen, we helped to set up an organisation that speaks out about the death and destruction caused by drone strikes, and supports affected communities. We also assisted the

families of those wounded and killed in the December 2013 wedding drone strike to seek and win compensation of US \$1.24m.

In February, we began legal action in the International Criminal Court, accusing US NATO allies of committing war crimes by facilitating the drones programme through intelligence-sharing.

In October, Reprieve caseworkers accompanied **Faisal bin Ali Jaber** to Berlin to take legal action against the German government for its complicity in US drone strikes. Faisal is arguing that the German Constitutional Court should order the German government to end the US's use of Ramstein Airbase in Germany in its covert drone war in Yemen. Faisal's brother-in-law Salim, a local imam known for preaching against al-Qaeda, and his nephew Waleed, a policeman, were both killed in a drone strike in August 2012. We hope to secure a hearing in the German Constitutional Court in 2015.



# Rendition



## Highlights

### In 2014...

We secured the release of our clients Yunus Rahmatullah and Amanatullah Ali from Bagram prison after a decade of detention and torture • **We won a ruling in the European Court of Human Rights that Poland facilitated CIA torture at black sites – the first ruling on European complicity in the torture programme** • We fought for rendition victims Yunus Rahmatullah and Abdul-Hakim Belhaj in the UK courts • **We uncovered evidence that forced the British intelligence services to admit that they spied on legally privileged communications** • We campaigned for the release of an uncensored version of the Senate Intelligence Committee's Report on CIA Torture, weighed in on the findings, and highlighted the gaps.



Gaddafi opponent **Abdul-Hakim Belhaj** was kidnapped along with his pregnant wife, Fatima Boudchar, and rendered to Libya. Abdul-Hakim was tortured and imprisoned for 6 years.



**Yunus Rahmatullah** and Amanatullah Ali were released from Bagram, Afghanistan after 10 years of detention, torture and rendition, without charge, trial or access to a lawyer.



In 2014, we secured the release of two men, Yunus Rahmatullah and Amanatullah Ali, from the US's shadowy prison camp at Bagram Airbase. We also won several landmark rulings in torture litigation against the US and its allies.

In August, the European Court of Human Rights ruled in favour of our client **Abu Zubaydah**, who was brutally tortured at European "black sites", and then rendered to Guantánamo. The court ruled that the Polish government was not only aware of but actively assisted the CIA's European "black site" programme. This is the first time a court has passed judgment on European complicity in torture.

We fought for **Abdul-Hakim Belhaj and Fatima Boudchar**, who were rendered to Gaddafi's torture chambers in a joint MI6-CIA operation, in British courts. In October, three of Britain's most senior judges ruled that our case against the former UK foreign secretary Jack Straw and the then head of MI6 for their involvement in the couple's ordeal should be heard in a British court. In a related claim, the UK intelligence services admitted spying on legally privileged

communications. The Metropolitan police are conducting a criminal investigation of the case.

Our clients **Yunus Rahmatullah** and **Amanatullah Ali** were released from Bagram, Afghanistan after 10 years of detention and torture without charge, trial or access to a lawyer. There is no doubt that the British government is responsible for Yunus's torture and rendition - after his release, he told us that he was blindfolded by British soldiers, punched and kicked, and hit with rifle butts. He was tied to a moving vehicle and dragged across the ground, waterboarded, and beaten unconscious. In November, the UK High Court dismissed the UK government's claim that relations with the USA would be damaged if Yunus were allowed to sue for damages.

We were part of a human rights coalition that campaigned for the release of an uncensored version of the Senate Intelligence Committee's Report on CIA Torture. Although the report was published with redactions throughout, it makes numerous visible references to the torture of our clients, including Abu Zubaydah, and has helped change the narrative around rendition, torture and unlawful detention in the name of the "war on terror". We weighed in on the report's findings and highlighted its shortcomings in the media.

# Thank you

Reprive's work would not be possible without our supporters

Anonymous • **Atlantic Philanthropies** • Aw60 • **Barham Charitable Trust** • Bertha Foundation • **Bryan Guinness Charitable Trust** • David & Elaine Potter Foundation • **Diana Parker Charitable Trust** • Ethicall • **European Commission** • Foreign and Commonwealth Office • **Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer** • Garden Court Chambers • **The Hargrave Foundation** • Hollick Family Charitable Trust • **Hotspur Trust** • Humanade • **Integra Capital Limited** • Jane Gibson Charitable Trust • **Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust** • Laura Kinsella Foundation • **Leigh Day & Co. Solicitors** • Lush UK • **Matrix Chambers** • Michael Metcalfe Settlement • **The Miles Morland Foundation** • The Muriel Jones Foundation • **Nadir Dinshaw Charitable Trust** • Oak Philanthropy Limited • **Oakdale Trust** • OMCT • **Persula Foundation** • Polden-Puckham Charitable Foundation • **Proteus Fund - Themis** • Reed Smith • **Robert Gavron Charitable Trust** • The Roddick Foundation • **Rosen Charitable Trust** • Sebastian Cobler Stiftung • **Sigrid Rausing Trust** • Souter Charitable Trust • **Tides Foundation** • Tinsley Charitable Trust • **Tolkien Trust** • UVFVT • **Vital Projects Fund** • Wild Pictures • **Our thousands of individual supporters around the world**

# STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

For the year ending 31 December 2014

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>			
<b>Income from generated funds</b>			
Voluntary Income	£904,547	£105,343	£1,009,890
Activities for generating funds	£66,638		£66,638
Investment Income	£10,321		£10,321
Incoming resources from Charitable activities	£434,859	£1,005,596	£1,440,455
<b>Total Incoming Resources</b>	<b>£1,416,365</b>	<b>£1,110,939</b>	<b>£2,527,304</b>
<b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>			
<b>Costs of generating funds</b>			
Costs of voluntary income Charitable activities	£266,897	£23,198	£290,095
Governance Costs	£897,422	£1,167,575	£2,064,997
	£19,308	£1,875	£21,183
<b>Total Resources Expended</b>	<b>£1,183,627</b>	<b>£1,192,648</b>	<b>£2,376,275</b>
<b>Net Income/(Expenditure) before transfers</b>			
Transfer Between Funds	£232,738	(£81,709)	£151,029
Total Funds @ 1 January 2014	£1,182,570	£336,512	£1,419,082
<b>Total Funds @ 31 Dec 2014</b>	<b>£1,315,308</b>	<b>£254,803</b>	<b>£1,570,111</b>

## BALANCE SHEET

	2014
<b>Fixed Assets</b>	
Tangible assets	£16,283
	<b>£16,283</b>
<b>Current Assets</b>	
Debtors	£152,955
Bank at Cash	£1,521,600
	<b>£1,674,555</b>
<b>Creditors: Due after more than one year</b>	<b>(£95,556)</b>
<b>Net Current Assets</b>	<b>£1,578,999</b>
<b>Creditors: Due after more than one year</b>	<b>(£25,171)</b>
<b>Total Assets less Total Liabilities</b>	<b>£1,570,111</b>
<b>Fund Balances @ 31st March</b>	
Restricted funds	£254,803
Unrestricted funds	£1,315,308
<b>Total Fund Balances @ 31st Dec</b>	<b>£1,570,111</b>



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*15 Years defending human rights*



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