

## OTHER ACTIVITIES

Every year PIN bestows the **Homo Homini Award** to personalities who have made significant contributions to the promotion of human rights, democracy and the non-violent resolution of political conflict.

PIN is a member of the „**Lifeline**“ consortium of seven NGOs which focusing on providing support to embattled civil society organizations and individuals in repressive environments.

Since 1999 PIN has organized the **One World** International Human Rights Documentary Film Festival in Prague and many other Czech cities. For several years the festival has also been presented in Brussels.

PIN is one of the founders of the **Prague Civil Society Centre**, that aims to support civic initiatives in the countries of the Eastern Partnership, Russia and Central Asia.

### In 2015 PIN's Centre for Human Rights and Democracy was supported by:

Acted / the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs / DG DEVCO (EIDHR) / the MOTT Foundation NED – the National Endowment for Democracy / PIN's Club of Friends / the OAK Foundation the Sigrid Rausing Trust / the Taiwan Foundation for Democracy / US Government Grants .

### PEOPLE IN NEED

People in Need (PIN) is one of the largest NGOs in Central and Eastern Europe. Currently PIN works in 30 countries around the World where it implements humanitarian and development projects, as well as programs aimed at supporting human rights and democracy. In the Czech Republic PIN focuses on programs reducing social exclusion and education.

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## MAP OF ONGOING PROJECTS

People in Need's Centre for Human Rights and Democracy has been working in repressive and transitional countries since 1990. It focuses on cooperation with local partners and civil society organizations mainly in the post-Soviet region and Latin America. PIN's Centre for Human Rights and Democracy works in the following countries:



Azerbaijan (since 2013) / Myanmar / Burma (since 1997) / Belarus (since 1998)  
Egypt (since 2011) / Cuba (since 1997) / Libya (since 2011) / Moldova – Transnistria (since 2006)  
Nicaragua (since 2014) / Russia (since 2009) / Ukraine (since 2003) / Venezuela (since 2014)



# CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY



### THE MAIN ACTIVITIES:

- Capacity building for civil society organizations and support for their activities in countries with repressive regimes
- Direct aid to politically persecuted individuals and their families
- International support and advocacy activities to support human rights defenders in countries with repressive regimes

[www.clovekvtisni.cz/en/human-rights](http://www.clovekvtisni.cz/en/human-rights) / [www.homohomini.net](http://www.homohomini.net)

## CAPACITY BUILDING FOR CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS AND SUPPORT FOR THEIR ACTIVITIES IN COUNTRIES WITH REPRESSIVE REGIMES

People in Need (PIN) considers civil society to be a pillar of any free and democratic country. This is why PIN provides support to independent organizations and individuals working in repressive environments, as well as their professional development and concrete activities.

LAST YEAR\* PIN WORKED WITH **688** CIVIL SOCIETY ACTIVISTS.

\*Based on figures from 2014.



### ACTIVITIES

- STUDY VISITS AND INTERNSHIPS** — The objective is to support the professional development of participating partners by giving them the space to make comparisons with the experiences of other countries, and to help them establish new contacts.
- SEMINARS AND TRAINING** — The goal is to help our partners improve their work and to become more effective. The topics are designed based on their particular needs and are primarily focused on: digital security; legal counselling; monitoring human rights violations; managing campaigns and media communication; the use of videos and audiovisual resources; and project methodologies.
- MICRO-GRANTS** — Micro-grants are designed to support the specific activities of our partners. They make it possible for them to utilise the knowledge that they have obtained through training and working internships and may serve as an impetus for implementing larger projects.

“I do not want to abandon my profession,”

says Ukrainian journalist **VB**, who was abducted and accused of being a spy during his travels as a reporter in a separatist region in Eastern Ukraine. Today he works in Kyev for the online news site Informator.lg.ua that covers the eastern part of the country. Thanks in part to PIN's support, it serves as a counterweight to media outlets owned by oligarchs and media based on official Russian sources.

Repressive regimes usually limit access to independent information. Therefore, PIN's Centre for Human Rights and Democracy supports independent journalists and media projects in almost every country where it works.

## DIRECT AID TO POLITICALLY PERSECUTED INDIVIDUALS AND THEIR FAMILIES

PIN provides assistance to lawyers, critical journalists, bloggers, students and activists, who deeply care about the fate of their country, believe in basic human values and who are persecuted in their countries because of that.

LAST YEAR\* PIN HELPED **665** PERSECUTED PEOPLE OF WHICH **78** WERE POLITICAL PRISONERS AND THEIR FAMILIES.

\*Based on figures from 2014.

### PIN PROVIDES THE FOLLOWING TYPES OF ASSISTANCE:



#### LEGAL AID

We ensure that people who are persecuted or arrested in their country for political reasons receive highly competent legal assistance.



#### CRITICAL MEDICAL TREATMENT

Political prisoners are often denied medical care and access to medicine. We therefore provide them with any necessary drugs and, once they are released, ensure they receive a thorough medical examination. We provide comparable help to people who are injured, for example, during an interrogation or demonstration.



#### PSYCHOLOGICAL COUNSELLING

Human rights defenders are under constant psychological pressure exerted by agents of the state in repressive regimes. Professional support makes it easier for them to deal with the stress.



#### MATERIAL AID

Human rights defenders and their families often lose their jobs as a result of their civic engagement. We provide material assistance to those who find themselves in a difficult financial situation.

“The fact that I had to leave Libya is the clearest proof that we need to continue working, and working much harder,”

says **Samira** who had been engaged in activities to support women's rights in Libya. Due to threats on her life she fled, with the help of PIN, into exile, where she has continued her work.

## INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT AND ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES TO SUPPORT HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS IN COUNTRIES WITH REPRESSIVE REGIMES

PIN has various activities aimed at drawing attention to human rights violations around the world and obtaining broader public and political support for protecting these rights.

Here are some examples:

### 1. Hidden Sports

An information campaign about human rights in Russia just prior to the Olympic Games in Sochi. The campaign website [www.hiddensports.com](http://www.hiddensports.com) presents specific cases of human rights violations.

### 2. Day for Cuba

A march and conference in support of the Ladies in White movement in Cuba, which advocates for the release of political prisoners. The Ladies in White face persecution themselves.

### 3. Stories Without Endings

This exhibition about unpunished violence in the North Caucasus uses a comic strip format to present the stories of 12 people who became victims of the arbitrary whims of the authorities in the region. [www.bezkonce.com/en](http://www.bezkonce.com/en)

### 4. Doubling Down on Repression

A campaign about the increasing political repression in Azerbaijan that includes public events, an exhibition called: “Doubling Down on Repression: Stories from Azerbaijan's Political Prisoners” and advocacy meetings on an international level.



### 5. We Don't Want Karimov in Prague

An open letter signed by 30 organisations addressed to the Czech President Milos Zeman requesting him to cancel the planned Prague visit of Uzbek President Islam Karimov. Uzbekistan is considered to be one of the harshest dictatorships in the world. (Photo: Association for Human Rights in Central Asia)

### 6. For Your Freedom and Ours

Key human rights defenders spoke out at this conference in Prague. The participants agreed that these days it is more important than ever to support dissidents in their fight for freedom.

### 7. One World Film Festival in Brussels

This Czech documentary film festival is an annual event in the EU capital. We screen human rights documentary films while also bringing guests and speakers from countries with repressive regimes.

Due to international pressure and a campaign, that PIN also participated in, **Sonia Garro** was able to leave the jail, where the Cuban regime had held her for three years without trial or specific charges.

Sonia is a member of the Ladies in White movement, which advocates for the **release of all political prisoners in Cuba.**