

Reprieve

Strategy

2017

About this document

Because of Reprieve’s agile nature (as set out below), this strategy document is to act as a rolling plan or framework for who we are and what we do, rather than as a fixed-term aim with concrete targets. The board will review and approve it each year, and the Executive Director and Founder will inform the board of any significant changes as the work progresses. On the basis of the Strategic Plan, the organisation develops an annual Operational Plan, which includes the broad goals of each team’s projects, the means by which those goals will be achieved, performance indicators, and targets. Our Operational Plan feeds into individual employees’ work plans and results in sets of specific outputs that contribute to the attainment of project goals. These are used to assess progress by line managers at monthly management meetings.

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1. Reprive's Vision, Mission and Values

Vision: Reprive's Vision is is a world without the death penalty, secret prisons and state-sanctioned assassinations.

Our Mission: Reprive's Mission is to use strategic interventions to fight the use of the death penalty, secret prisons and targeted assassinations by oppressive Governments, whilst challenging the orthodoxy/notion that such tactics/abuses can be justified as part of what has been called the "War on Terror".

Our Values: Agile; Creative; Fearless; Effective; Resilient; Relentless.

2. Reprieve's Strategy / Modus Operandi

Reprieve is a small, feisty registered charitable organisation (No. 1114900) of human rights defenders (36 staff, £2.12m income in 2016).

Our strategy is to combat the death penalty, secret prisons and targeted assassinations by making them an expensive and difficult political nightmare.

We work for the most disenfranchised people in society, as it is in their cases that human rights are most swiftly jettisoned and the rule of law is cast aside. Thus, we promote and protect the rights of those facing the death penalty and those who are the victims of extreme human rights abuses committed in the name of the "War on Terror" (WOT), with a focus on assassinations and secret prisons.

Underpinning Reprieve's strategic focus is the notion that countries such as the UK and US hold themselves out as shining examples of democratic societies that respect the rule of law and human rights, and therefore should be held to exacting standards in terms of how they respond to acts or allegations of terrorism and murder. Their responses have ripple effects worldwide, and are frequently used to justify the continuation of the death penalty, extrajudicial killing, torture, rendition and unlawful detention by countries ranging from 'aspiring exemplars' to 'worst offenders'.

Our Death Penalty work focuses on specific regions in North America, Africa, the Middle East and Asia. Within these regions, we determine our focus countries by balancing the following factors:

- History of investigating / litigating / carrying out work in the country in question
- How rife the use of the death penalty is in that country
- Our assessment as to the likely impact of our work – both in-country and for abolition more globally
- Our assessment as to whether the activities we undertake in-country will further our objects to an extent which justifies the resources committed
- Our ability to have a reliable and secure presence on the ground, and access to the individuals we assist.

The first two of these factors need not be present for us to work to end the death penalty in a particular country, but it tends to be the case that we work in regions where all of these factors are present, and in the countries where a change in death penalty practice will have most impact in the region. Ultimately we make an assessment on where we think our work is most needed and is most likely to achieve meaningful change.

Our Assassinations and Secret Prisons work is guided by a similar balancing assessment. Historically our abuses in counter-terrorism work evolved from our death penalty work in that all those originally rendered, tortured and unlawfully detained at Guantanamo Bay Prison faced a possible death penalty. Over time, as the WOT morphed into a combination of human rights abuses wider than the imposition of the death penalty, so too did our work broaden. We now focus on WOT abuses in two general areas: Assassinations, which includes our work on drone strikes, and Secret Prisons which incorporates our work in Guantanamo where we have been involved in the release of more detainees than any other organisation. We focus on misconduct by the United States and the UK, based on the premise that we cannot expect the world to espouse broader notions of Human Rights if these countries renounce them. We prioritise those countries where:

- We have a history of working and understand the local context

- The abuses in question are prevalent
- We believe our work is likely to significantly impact positively on preventing or stopping those abuses, domestically and internationally (by way of knock-on effect)
- On our assessment, the activities that we propose to undertake will further our objects to an extent which justifies the resources committed.
- We are able to safely, securely and effectively conduct our work.

It is our investigation of, access to and representation of victims of human rights abuses - be they on death row, in Guantánamo, or the survivors of a drone strike - that differentiates us from organisations like Human Rights Watch or Amnesty and gives us the ability to effect change. As lawyers and investigators, we are uniquely placed to make the voices of these prisoners heard: we meet with them in person, thereby developing a factual portrait of their case and conditions of imprisonment, as well as an understanding their personal story. We often also enjoy an authority to speak on their behalf and tell their stories in a way that more traditional campaigners do not.

We advocate for the people we assist in the courts of law where we can, but importantly we also advocate in the court of public opinion – both on behalf of victims and the issues. Using strategic litigation, we effect systemic change and with victims’ stories, we can change the minds of influential decision-makers and the public.

We are strategic in terms of which victims we represent and how we use their stories to effect change. Where it becomes apparent that a particular case or campaign is successfully capturing the public imagination, and thereby shifting the debate on the issues with which we engage – for example through increased press focus – then we invest more resources in it and fine tune our approach in order to maximise our ability to effect change. If a strategy is not working, we stand back from it until a better time, or we re-evaluate and adapt.

Key to our mutable strategy is our agile team of expert investigators and lawyers who take our cases to decision-makers and our skilled communications team that takes our message to the public. The importance of public education in Reprieve’s work cannot be overestimated. Many of the people assisted by Reprieve do not have access to meaningful courts of law: their best hope of justice lies in the court of public opinion. By humanising victims of extreme human rights abuses through telling their stories, or emphasising the value of the Rule of Law, fairness and due process, extraordinary shifts can be brought about in these audiences.

Agility

The area in which Reprieve operates is dynamic and fast-moving. Reprieve’s agility is not just part of the strategy; it is the strategy. All of our staff are familiar with our key objectives. The aim is then to develop creative cases and campaigns which will get us closer to achieving those objectives. We track what is going on in the world and take action accordingly. This is well-illustrated by our Assassinations project. As this example shows, part of Reprieve’s role is as trailblazer: finding out what abuses within our remit are occurring, bringing litigation and placing stories in the press constantly (gradually eroding the legitimacy of those abuses in the public consciousness) until the larger human rights organizations take up the banner.

Reprieve captures the zeitgeist: we change the debate and we change peoples’ minds. That is our product – it is the thing we do brilliantly, it is the reason our funders fund us and the reason we punch so much above our weight.

3. Current Aims:

(A) Casework and Campaigns

Mission: To pursue strategic initiatives to abolish the death penalty or restrict its application worldwide. To pursue strategic initiatives to end the use of secret prisons and targeted assassinations committed in the name of what has been called the ‘War on Terror’.

Specific Aims:

- Engage institutions, governments, civil society, corporations and the public in the fight for abolition of the death penalty worldwide, focusing specifically on the United States of America, Asia, the Middle East and Africa.
- Challenge the use of the death penalty worldwide by undertaking casework – either directly or in partnership with other lawyers or organisations - on behalf of those facing the death penalty, and whose cases offer strategic opportunities that Reprieve is well-placed to pursue.
- Implement the Stop Lethal Injection Project to support pharmaceutical companies that do not wish to have their life-saving drugs used in executions, particularly in the US.
- Implement the Stop Aid For Executions Project to prevent aid or assistance from abolitionist states from propping up the death penalty in retentionist states (including through counternarcotics support which leads to death sentence for drug offences or support for prosecutions where there is a risk of a death sentence being imposed).
- Build and support anti-death penalty activists and organisations in strategic locations.
- End extrajudicial killings associated with the ‘War on Terror’, including off-battlefield use of weaponised drones and the use of, or collusion with, other mechanisms for assassinations.
- End use of a Kill List to assassinate people around the world.
- Stop ongoing rendition, unlawful detention and torture/cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment (“CIDT”) associated with the ‘War on Terror’.
- Hold to account those who perpetrated or colluded with past rendition, unlawful detention and torture/CIDT associated with the ‘War on Terror’, ensuring that the lessons of history are learned from recent excesses.
- Identify and combat “emerging threats” associated with the ‘War on Terror’ and to expose the ongoing human rights abuses that the US seeks to conceal by altering the nature, footprint and location of the ‘War on Terror’.
- Build global public awareness of the issues Reprieve tackles and of its work.

(B) Operations

Mission: Create the most efficient, nimble and effective organisation possible, where staff are fully supported to achieve Reprieve’s mission.

Specific Aims:

- Ensure that Reprieve's resources - which comprise its people, funds, and physical or digital equipment - are selected, harnessed and deployed efficiently, effectively, securely, ethically, and in compliance with all applicable laws, policies and standards.
- Provide a positive and energising working space that is conducive to the Reprieve team achieving to their maximum potential.
- Provide operational and security support to staff, Fellows and consultants working remotely.
- Continuously monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of Reprieve's work, and ensure that resources are utilised to achieve the impact that we seek.

(C) Development and Outreach

Mission: Generate the right level and types of income - by converting public interest in our work into funds - to support Reprieve's work and facilitate its achievement of its mission.

Specific Aims:

- Build public support for our work, and galvanise key audiences such that they are able to take action to assist us in furthering our mission.
- Ensure that Reprieve has the quantum and composition of funding needed to carry out its work efficiently and effectively.
- Gather and analyse data on the impact of Reprieve's work and communicate that to prospective and current funding sources.

4. Who We Are

Leadership

Reprieve's leadership is provided by its board; its founder, Clive Stafford Smith; its Executive Director, Anna Yearley; and the two Directors, Maya Foa and Simone Abel. Clive co-founded Reprieve in 1999 and continues to have a strong relationship with the organisation and its staff. The casework strategy is directed by Maya, and the Operations by Simone, both overseen by Anna. Anna, Clive and Maya undertake public advocacy work on behalf of Reprieve.

The senior team (comprised of Anna, the team directors and deputy directors) has a close relationship and meets weekly. There is a great deal of communication between the senior team and across the organisation generally, and Anna is very engaged with the organisation's day-to-day activities. Overall strategy for Reprieve is set by the board and captured in this strategic mission document, which the board reviews annually. Anna, Clive, Maya and Simone are responsible for carrying out Reprieve's strategic direction, its funding and its interaction with the board.

Board

Ultimate responsibility for Reprieve and its work is held by our board of trustees. The skill mix of the trustees is designed to bring a balance of legal, charitable, commercial and communications experience and expertise to underpin the strategy of the organisation.

Reprieve's Board meets four or five times a year. With Anna and Clive, it sets and monitors overall strategy for the organisation, and monitors the budget. Anna reports to the board at each meeting as to casework and financial achievements, and any broader issues that need resolution. As of July 2017, the Board comprises: Lord Jim Wallace of Tankerness PC QC – Chair, Nadege Genetay, Lady Sue Hollick, Ursula Owen, Anthony Salz, Samir Shah, Ursula Owen, Andrew Graham, Mary Fitzgerald, Nasir Ahmad, and Tanya Steele.

The board conducts a skills audit every other year and each member meets with the chair annually to review their position and input. Trustees have 3-year terms, renewable once, and the board discusses replacing trustees whose turn to leave the board has come as and when that happens. These discussions take place with reference to the skills audit results.

Staff and Structure

Reprieve is a small, committed and dynamic team. The skill mix evenly divides between legal, investigative, communications and operations skills.

The organisation is undergoing transition. Historically, Reprieve's casework has operated within two teams: the Death Penalty and Abuses in Counter Terrorism. These two teams are now being integrated to work across death penalty, assassinations and secret prisons.

This change is due to:

- *Substantive Convergence*: A decade on from the birth of the so-called "War on Terror", and in the wake of the "Arab Spring", counter-terrorism operations and capital punishment are increasingly intertwined. As a result Reprieve's casework has grown increasingly congruous even as our focus and reach has expanded. Our caseworkers face similar challenges, deploy similar strategies and are confronted with similar stakeholders and bodies of law.
- *Organisational Performance*: Overlapping issues demand collaboration. With this change, our media, policy, campaigns, investigative and litigation teams will be able coordinate more effectively and communication will be simplified. A single team will protect and

enhance Reprieve's defining capabilities: the quick recognition of emerging threats and the rapid refocus of resources to combat them.

The integrated casework is developing under the direction of Director, Maya Foa.

Reprieve's casework is supported by its Operations team, led by Simone Abel, providing fundraising, governance, finance and other operational functions.

We are structured leanly and as non-hierarchically as possible. Our fundraisers work closely with our caseworkers to develop proposals for work that meets the organisation's strategic objectives. Caseworkers interact extensively with the operations staff and their work informs the organisation's plans and their implementation, public relations and systems.

Fellows and partner organisations

We have learned that the swiftest and best way to address human rights abuses is by supporting and working closely with human rights defenders on the ground. This means that people who know the law, custom and language of the country in question are assisting the victims we work with and effecting change in their country. It also means that we are training up people likely to stay in the country and continue the work. These individuals are driven and hard-working, but also fighting a difficult battle. By providing them with expertise, skills and influence, we will develop a new generation of skilled human rights defenders invested in their country's future. Our experience can prevent them from 'reinventing the wheel' and we also offer them support which helps them build their offices and maintain their drive.

Our Fellows and partner organisations are renowned for their work. They are why we have the testimony that underpins our litigation. Typically, our Fellows will identify victims of human rights abuses and we will then bring those people and their stories to decision-makers. Fellows and staff at partner organisations also carry out in-country work - our Yemeni Fellow was responsible for the Yemeni Legislature's move to ban drones; while one of our Pakistan Fellows led the successful legal petition to have drones declared illegal by the Peshawar High Court. We currently work with a Fellow hosted by a partner organisation in Indonesia, two Fellows hosted by a partner organisation in the US, and two Fellows in Malawi. We also work with one Fellow in Pakistan, and in close partnership with two Pakistan-based human rights organisations whose directors are/have been Reprieve Fellows and who interact closely with us. Our Yemeni Fellow had to leave the country because of the current political instability and violence, and we do not have plans to create a new Fellowship post there for the conceivable future.

Volunteers

Reprieve increases the impact of its small team by effective use of unpaid volunteers (we do reimburse travel and lunch expenses). Would-be volunteers apply on-line and are interviewed for appropriate qualifications. We have more than 2,000 people on our waiting list to volunteer for us. We interview and choose our volunteers carefully.

We also work closely with academic institutions to develop post-graduate projects for potential funded post-graduate fellows to be hosted by Reprieve or our partners as in-country, and for law students to join Reprieve for summer internships.

As a result of the time we put into their supervision and training, we currently have over 40 very reliable and committed volunteers, many of whom stay with us for a period of approximately three months. This is a huge resource, as it massively increases our capacity. Our volunteers and fellows are integrated into the work as much as possible, and are carefully trained and managed, so that the work they do is of benefit to the organisation and to the volunteer. Each volunteer or fellow is placed within one of the teams, has a manager and receives the guidance s/he needs to carry out his or her work. The vast majority of our

volunteers assist Reprieve from our office, although a few assist our work from home.

External Support

Reprieve has a considerable amount of support from external sources. We are given significant pro bono assistance by various law firms – in terms of advice for the organisation, provision of secondees lawyers to assist our teams as part of a structured secondment programme, and casework assistance for our clients. We also receive support from some other entities – a good example is Lush, the cosmetics company, which assists us from time to time with campaigns they run on behalf of our clients. We work closely with an extensive array of media across the world. We work hard on these external relations, as they leverage our capacity significantly.

Other Resources

We have registered the name Reprieve as a trademark in the UK, Europe and Australia and we are licensing the name to the offshoots of Reprieve in the Netherlands and Australia. We have registered the trademark in the US and have licenced it to independent sister organisation Reprieve US. We have a 10-year office lease on our Tower Hill premises that ends in 2022.

Reprieve US

In 2014 Reprieve helped enable the re-launch of Reprieve US, an independent sister organisation which shares our goals and methodology. They have a separate board of trustees, as well as four members of staff based in New York City and Washington, DC. Reprieve works in close partnership with Reprieve US and benefits from its direct advocacy in the US, its relationship with the US media and funders, and its ability to litigate in the US.

5. Culture

Reprieve's primary resource is its people, their commitment, experience and ability. Staff feel a sense of ownership of the organisation and its direction. Almost all Reprieve staff could earn considerably more elsewhere, but share a belief and commitment that motivates them, binds them to the organisation and informs the culture at Reprieve. Reprieve staff are where they are because they are offended on a profound level by the peculiar hypocrisy of using systems of justice to create spaces for abuse whether in the execution chamber or legal black holes such as Guantánamo Bay.

As well as being agile, Reprieve encourages staff to be creative in their projects and fearless in their ambition.

We work hard and we aim to produce excellent work.

There is an understanding that our objectives are optimistic and we know that we are in it for the long haul. Achievements are celebrated and although we strive to achieve impact on a constant basis, stamina and endurance are necessary for us to realise significant progress and change.

The culture at Reprieve is consensus driven and as non-hierarchical as possible. Importance is placed on communication, knowledge sharing and cross-fertilisation of ideas/inspiration. Reprieve is consultative: we have weekly staff-wide meetings, weekly team meetings and an annual retreat, at which work and organisational direction are discussed. Contributions of ideas and knowledge are encouraged at all levels and from all involved, from volunteers through to directors.

We aim to retain the right people in order to ensure that Reprieve is as effective as possible in its work. The standard of applicants for new jobs advertised is very high, especially given the amount we pay.

The pay structure is comparatively exceptionally flat, governed by a constitutional principle that the highest paid in the office receives no more than 33% more than the lowest – officers are paid £36836, regional/project leads are paid £38769, deputy directors are paid £40,704, directors are paid £43,674 and the Executive Director is paid £48,166. Clive Stafford Smith, Reprieve's founder, is a fellow and is paid a fellowship grant of £43,674 per annum.

6. Place in market

Reprieve is small human rights organisation – and because we are small, we are nimble. We react quickly and effectively to new challenges, and as a result, we are often debate-formers. We work closely with larger partner NGOs to ensure that they have access to the facts we gather, so that both those facts and our narrative are disseminated as widely as they can facilitate.

We also engage and cooperate with a wide range of smaller civil society organisations in the UK order to share our knowledge, strategy and, most importantly, lend our voice on issues of joint concern.

Reprieve also co-operates closely with specialized non-profit human rights organisations around the world, and with law firms around the world. It has strong contacts and networks in the USA, the Middle East (particularly Yemen) and North Africa, Pakistan and Indonesia, built-up over many years work in those countries. In Pakistan, for example, we helped to establish and work closely with both the Justice Project of Pakistan (JPP) in Lahore, and the Foundation for Fundamental Rights (FFR) in Islamabad.

Our formal and informal partnerships with other civil society organisations are too numerous to list comprehensively, but include: Liberty; Amicus, Penal Reform International, Public Interest Lawyers, JUSTICE and REDRESS in the UK and ACLU, Amnesty, HRW, CCR and NYU Center for Global Justice internationally. We also work closely with frontline human rights NGOs in country, such as HOOD in Yemen.

7. History and Achievements

Clive Stafford Smith established Reprieve in 1999 having spent many years defending people sentenced to death in the US' Deep South. Particularly since 2004, Reprieve has built a team of lawyers and investigators to tackle death penalty cases; and extrajudicial killing, unlawful detention, torture and rendition cases arising because of states' abuse of counter-terrorism powers.

Reprieve has helped secure the release of more than 80 clients from Guantánamo and currently acts for seven others – more than any other single organization. Our record on litigating death penalty cases is also unique: Clive has successfully prevented the death penalty in all but six of his cases, which amounts to a 98 per cent victory rate.

Examples of our past achievements include:

- In 2016, after an in-depth investigation into death penalty cases in Bahrain, Reprieve launched a widely-covered report **exposing the links** between a state-owned Belfast business, UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office funding and police and security forces in Bahrain that use torture to secure death sentences.
- Since 2014, Reprieve has worked on the case of **Ali al-Nimr, Dawoud al-Marhoon and Abdullah Hasan al-Zaher**, they were all children when they were sentenced to death by crucifixion in Saudi Arabia in the wake of the Arab Spring pro-democracy uprising. Following an international campaign mounted by Reprieve, the UK Government secured assurances from the Saudi authorities that the three young men will not be executed. Reprieve continues to push for their death sentences to be commuted.
- Since lifting its moratorium on executions in December 2014, Pakistan has hanged over 400 prisoners. The Pakistan government has repeatedly claimed that this wave of executions is designed to combat 'terrorism'. In 2016 Reprieve and the Justice Project Pakistan conducted investigation which showed that **94% of prisoners hanged in Pakistan had nothing to do with terrorism** and that those executed included **vulnerable people such as children**, people who were tortured into signing false 'confessions', and **the mentally ill or disabled**.
- Also in Pakistan, we helped secure **a stay of execution** for Imdad Ali, a severely mentally ill man who has been on death row in Pakistan since 2008.
- In Bangladesh, we helped **secure Shafik Rehman's release from prison** and return to the UK. Shafik is a British journalist who has spent a lifetime advocating for freedom in Bangladesh, he is elderly and frail, was held in life-threatening prison conditions and was facing charges that carried the death penalty.
- In Malawi, since February 2015 we have worked with partners to secure the **release of over 100 prisoners** formerly sentenced to the mandatory death penalty.
- An on-going international campaign aimed at securing the return home of British national Andy Tsege – kidnapped and rendered in 2014 and held under an illegal death sentence in Ethiopia – resulted in over **50 Members of the UK Parliament** calling on the UK Government to seek his release, concerns about the FCO's approach in this case have also been raised a former Attorney General, Lord Chancellor and Director of Public Prosecutions in an open letter to Boris Johnson, and over 50,000 members of public signed a Reprieve petition calling on the UK Government to secure Andy's return home to his family.

- Reprieve helps **manufacturers break their links with the execution drug trade**, supports export regulators in preventing foreign medicines being sold to death rows, and seeks to debunk the myth of the “humane execution” - thanks to the actions of more than twenty pharmaceutical manufacturers which have prevented the sale of their medicines for use in executions, US states can now not purchase ‘traditional’ execution drugs. All FDA-approved manufacturers of any potential execution drug have now blocked the sale of these drugs for this purpose.
- Highlighting cases of rendition. In January 2017 the UK Supreme Court unanimously rejected the British government’s attempts to block the UK courts from hearing the case of Abdul-Hakim Belhaj and Fatima Boudchar, assisted by Reprieve. The couple were **kidnapped and rendered** to Gaddafi’s Libya in 2004, in a notorious British-American ‘rendition’ operation.
- Assisting in the release and resettlement of **Guantánamo clients** including Abdullah Yahia Yosuf al Shabli (Jan 2017). Abdullah was transferred to Guantánamo in February 2002, he had been captured and tortured by Afghan forces between December 2001 and February 2002.
- Continuing to represent a number of detainees in Guantánamo in order to highlight the plight of those who remain, and keep up the pressure for closure.
- Continuing **global litigation** of the kind credited in *Engines of Liberty* as the main motivation behind the Bush Administration’s retreat from its harsher detention and torture policies. For example, working with FFR successfully to sue the Pakistan government to ensure their active intervention on behalf of their remaining Guantánamo detainees.
- Representing the voices of over 200 **innocent individuals** and families affected by US-led drone strikes and ensuring that their stories are publicly aired.
- Supporting a partner organisation in their work to secure a landmark ruling in April 2015, which saw a senior judge in Pakistan order the police to formally investigate former CIA agents for their role in the **drone strike** that killed the son and brother of our client Kareem Kahn.
- Accompanying Faisal bin Ali Jaber (whose nephew and brother-in-law were killed in a drone strike in Yemen) to Berlin to file a constitutional claim against the German Government for its complicity in US drone strikes. While not successful in court, we gained significant media coverage and were given immediate leave to appeal. Our case also led the German Federal Prosecutor’s office to launch an investigation into possible violations of international law.
- Providing legal, social and psychological support to 22 former detainees and their families, helping them rebuild their lives following their unlawful detention and torture as part of our **Life After Guantánamo Project**.
- Contributing significantly to the narrative around **off-battlefield drone strikes** being unlawful – a February 2015 report by the UK Parliament’s Defence Committee questioned whether ‘targeted killings’ carried out by drones in Iraq and Syria “are in accordance with the law”.

- Drawing public attention to the false reporting of the identities of those killed by drone strikes in **Yemen** and Pakistan through our **Multiple Kills report** (November 2014). Launching the **Assassination Project**, intended to further Reprieve's role as the front-line NGO exposing and challenging the latest, dreadful policy concocted by politicians in the name of the ever-expanding "War on Terror". It incorporates both legal and public advocacy strategies that aim to expose and prevent the use of illegal and immoral State Kill Lists.

8. Geography

Reprieve is based in London and works closely with Reprieve US, an independent sister organisation, which is based in New York City.

Where we work

Reprieve engages with the death penalty, assassinations and secret prisons in:

- the US;
- Asia;
- the Middle East and especially Egypt, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates;
- Africa.

Reprieve assists:

- Some of those detained without trial in Guantánamo Bay and Afghanistan (Bagram Airbase);
- Victims of drone strikes and their families in Pakistan (especially Waziristan), Yemen and elsewhere; and
- Victims of torture, rendition, unlawful detention and extrajudicial killing around the world.

In addition to our regional casework, we also carry out strategically themed projects on issues of global concern:

- Our Stop Lethal Injection Project focusses on ending the lethal injection in the US, by engaging with multinational pharmaceutical companies, investors and other key stakeholders globally. More widely, this work and the press coverage it attracts debunks the myth of the humane execution.
- Our Stop Aid for Executions Project challenges the myth that aid is invariably benevolent and that security and justice assistance is benign. The Project encourages governments and other key actors to link aid to abolition of the death penalty, and holds governments to account for the provision of aid or assistance where there is a risk of the death penalty.

Why we are based in London

Reprieve's position in Europe allows it to leverage Europe's anti-death penalty stance on behalf of the prisoners for whom we act. We work closely with European parliamentarians and civil society across Europe.

As a UK rather than US-based NGO, Reprieve is well-placed to enforce the law globally, on both sides of the Atlantic and elsewhere, to get the best outcome and to further globalise human rights. At one point, there had been more UK court decisions in favour of Guantánamo prisoners than American. The US could not have built a global system of secret detention without help from its allies. Those allies are a vulnerable pressure point for access to prisoners, to information, and for accountability for past abuses. It is much easier to obtain information in Europe relating to the programme of rendition and torture.

The European courts and the European public are more sympathetic to international law in general and in particular towards the doctrine of universal human rights. Reprieve is therefore able to promote the importance of human rights more fully in the European media than could ever be possible in the US. Eventually, the European influence drifts back across the Atlantic.

9. Risks

The principal risks and uncertainties identified by the charity are as follows:

Risk identified	Action taken to mitigate the risk
<p>Financial (Institutions)</p> <p>A little under 50% of our annual income comes from trusts and foundations (including institutional funders). As these long long-term funding relationships come to an end, alternatives must be found to replace them or other funding streams must be proportionately increased.</p>	<p>Reprieve’s reserves policy aims to cover 6 months expenditure (it currently covers over 7 months’ expenditure) to give us time to replace any funding that is unexpectedly lost.</p> <p>Reprieve’s Resource Development strategy also aims to mitigate this risk by increasing funding from other sources. The Resource Development team has invested in campaigns and digital work, stronger individual relationships and more comprehensive coverage of institutional donors.</p>
<p>Financial (Reputation)</p> <p>Over 52% of Reprieve’s income currently comes from individual donors. As the environment we operate in is challenging and the landscape fast moving, and many of our clients have been severely traumatised, there is a risk that Reprieve’s reputation may be attacked by incidental or targeted public and supporter perception of Reprieve or its clients, causing damage to our ability to operate and raise funds.</p>	<p>Reprieve has robust and defensible reasoning for taking on certain clients and issues. We also have strong internal governance and good operational controls, and a solid reputation with external stakeholders, supported by a proactive communications policy.</p> <p>Reprieve also has a strong base of influential supporters, including our Board and Patrons, who understand the environment we operate in.</p>
<p>Personal Injury</p> <p>Reprieve’s staff travel to and work in dangerous places.</p>	<p>In 2016, Reprieve completely re-wrote significant risk assessment measures and have implemented them to increase the safety of its staff (for example, when working in potentially dangerous countries). We have an assessment process for any trip abroad, and we put individualised security measures in place for each staff member who travels.</p>

<p>Leadership</p> <p>Reprieve relies on key individuals, including its founder, Clive Stafford Smith. If the founder could not continue, or only at a much-reduced rate, this might be a serious threat to the organisation, although that threat continues to decline in magnitude as the role of other staff members increases.</p>	<p>Multiple senior staff have now become heavily engaged in public affairs and profiling, supported by a strong and effective communications department. Reprieve's founder and management team have contingency plans in place.</p>
<p>Regulatory</p> <p>Reprieve relies on compliance with several regulatory bodies to continue operating the way it does. For example, we must comply with the Charity Commission, the Fundraising Regulator, the Information Commissioner (particularly recent Data Protection regulations), the Solicitors Regulation Authority (particularly recent investigations into misconduct) and the more specific requirements of UK and USA sanctions and money laundering compliance. An investigation by any of these bodies would be time consuming, possibly restrict some activities and heavily impact reputation and therefore fundraising.</p>	<p>All staff undertake regular compliance training across all these areas. The senior management team are tasked with various areas of compliance within their job descriptions.</p>

The board's Risk Audit Committee reviews the risks facing Reprieve and reports to the board annually.

10. Monitoring and Evaluation

Measurement is not straightforward – Reprieve should be capturing the zeitgeist: changing the debate and changing peoples’ minds about the death penalty and abuses committed in the context of the ‘War on Terror’. Thus, we need to measure whether we are achieving that.

As set out above, part of Reprieve’s strategy is to react rapidly to external events, which means that we have a constant eye on what is happening in the world. Further, we constantly evaluate the projects, cases and campaigns we are working on, asking ‘is this working? Is this changing the debate?’. If it isn’t, we pivot the project or drop it. Thus, there is ongoing evaluation, in addition to the formal evaluation we carry out.

We monitor and evaluate our progress through evaluation sessions for each project at least once per year, plus an annual staff retreat. At the evaluation sessions, project teams examine their goals, activities, external outputs and lessons learned.

The first questions we ask during formal and informal evaluation of projects / cases are:

1. Does this case / project take us closer to achieving Reprieve’s Vision;
2. Is there a better way than this to achieve Reprieve’s Vision and
3. Is this project the optimal use of our limited resources
4. Should we pivot or persevere with this project?

Then, at our retreat, the staff and board determine the organizational strategy for that year and from that, the teams pull together operational plans, which include performance indicators and targets.

Our operational plan feeds into staff workplans, which are monitored and assessed by line managers at monthly management meetings. These are conducted with reference to time spent on tasks (as measured by time recording software). There is a real emphasis placed on external-facing results – i.e. what a given task achieves in the outside world (effect on policymakers, lawyers, government representatives, prisoners and their families and communities and the public at large). This provides an opportunity for staff to get feedback on their progress towards achieving the goals set out in their plan, and to take action to be as effective in achieving these goals as is possible.

The board approves the organisation’s strategy each year and the executive reports to the board throughout the year as to the progress of projects undertaken in pursuit of that strategy. This is informed by the evaluation sessions.

A culture of monitoring and evaluation permeates Reprieve, with weekly team meetings and organisation-wide meetings giving employees the opportunity to question projects, dissect progress and provide feedback.

11.The Future

Reprieve is 17 years old and has an ambitious vision - a world free from the death penalty and abuses committed in the name of the 'War on Terror'.

The organisation has loyal supporters, and is attractive to funders; it also has strong and capable leadership and able and committed staff. Thus, we should be able to work on achieving our goals for some time to come. Further and most importantly, our strategy – investigating on the front line; finding clients and representing them and then using those stories to advocate in the court of public opinion – is sound. Our stories change peoples' minds and that in turn changes policy.

We must preserve Reprieve's agility and adaptability. Our agility means that we are well placed to manage unexpected events and take advantage of opportunities that present themselves. We have a good track record of innovation in response to global developments. To maintain our effectiveness, we will continue to assess our impact continuously, so that we can learn from our experiences, close down projects which are not working, whilst doubling down on cases and campaigns which are achieving change. We must also remain unafraid to try new techniques to achieve results.

Our size is important, in terms of our agility and our team spirit. Our plan is therefore to keep the size of our team at roughly its current level. We will continue our fellowships and developing relationships with partners overseas, so that we seed human rights offices in other countries and we will build up and work with Reprieve US.

Reprieve has seen significant growth over the past 13 years and it is important now for us to evaluate and consolidate. We need to remember and remain true to our values: we must be agile; imaginative; fearless; impactful, resilient and relentless.