



# Human Rights Violators and War Crimes Center

*October 27, 2022*

Fiscal Year 2022 Report to Congress



**Homeland  
Security**

*U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement*

# Message from the Acting Director

October 27, 2022

I am pleased to present the following report, “Human Rights Violators and War Crimes Center,” which has been prepared by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

This report was compiled pursuant to a requirement in the Joint Explanatory Statement, which accompanies the Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act (P.L. 117-103).

Pursuant to congressional guidelines, this report is being provided to the following Members of Congress:



The Honorable Lucille Roybal-Allard  
Chairwoman, House Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security

The Honorable Chuck Fleischmann  
Ranking Member, House Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security

The Honorable Chris Murphy  
Chair, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito  
Ranking Member, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security

Inquiries related to this report may be directed to the ICE Office of Congressional Relations at (202) 732-4200.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tae D. Johnson', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Tae D. Johnson  
Acting Director  
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

# Executive Summary

ICE is providing this report to highlight its efforts to investigate, prosecute, and remove individuals who have committed human rights abuses, including persecution, genocide, severe violations of religious freedom, torture, extrajudicial killing, and the use or recruitment of child soldiers. This report includes statistics indicating the total number of investigations involving individuals believed to have committed human rights abuses from FY 2017 to FY 2021; ICE's efforts to increase the number of human rights investigations and prosecutions; and a discussion of the impediments to investigating and prosecuting additional human rights violators.

ICE's Homeland Security Investigations Human Rights Violators and War Crimes Unit and the Office of the Principal Legal Advisor are the primary components of the Human Rights Violators and War Crimes Center (HRVWCC), which works to identify, locate, prosecute, and remove human rights abusers and war criminals from the United States. Between FY 2017 and FY 2021, the HRVWCC began 126 new criminal investigations resulting in 36 indictments and 20 convictions. The HRVWCC has utilized funding allocations to increase staffing and, in turn, to generate more case leads. It has established new relationships both domestically and abroad with governmental partners and nongovernmental organizations to increase the number of human rights investigations and prosecutions.



# Human Rights Violators and War Crimes Center

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# I. Legislative Requirement

This report responds to the direction set forth in the Joint Explanatory Statement accompanying the Fiscal Year 2022 (FY) Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Appropriations Act (P.L. 117-103).

The Joint Explanatory Statement states:

*Continuation of Prior-Year Requirements.*—ICE shall continue to follow the directives under the following headings in the explanatory statement accompanying the fiscal year 2021 Act (Public Law 116-260), according to the previously directed timeframes, reporting requirements, required sustainment, and guidance:  
(19) Human Rights Violators.

The Joint Explanatory Statement also states:

*Human Rights Violators.*—ICE is directed to continue its efforts to investigate, remove, and prosecute individuals who have committed human rights abuses, including persecution, genocide, severe violations of religious freedom, torture, extrajudicial killing, use or recruitment of child soldiers, crimes against humanity, or war crimes. For this purpose, the agreement provides not less than \$5,300,000 for the Office of the Principal Legal Advisor Human Rights Law Section and the HSI Human Rights Violators and War Crimes Unit for their training, transportation, and other related activities. ICE shall report to the Committee within 180 days of the date of enactment of this Act on the following:  
(1) the total number of prosecutions and investigations of human rights offenses and other offenses committed and their outcomes, delineated by serious human rights violators within each of the last five fiscal years;  
(2) the efforts of ICE to increase the number of human rights investigations and prosecutions; and  
(3) any organizational, resource, or legal impediments to investigating and prosecuting more human rights violators, including whether the amount provided in this agreement is sufficient to support the Unit.

The Joint Explanatory Statement accompanying the FY 2021 DHS Appropriations Act (P.L. 116-260) (referenced above) states:

*Human Rights Violators.*—ICE is directed to continue its efforts to investigate, remove, and prosecute individuals who have committed human rights abuses, including persecution, genocide, severe violations of religious freedom, torture, extrajudicial killing, use or recruitment of child soldiers, crimes against humanity, or war crimes. ICE shall report to the Committees not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act on:

- (1) the total number of prosecutions and investigations of human rights offenses and other offenses committed and their outcomes, delineated by serious human rights violators within each of the last five fiscal years;
- (2) efforts to increase the number of human rights investigations and prosecutions; and
- (3) any organizational, resource, or legal impediments to investigating and prosecuting more human rights violators.

## II. Background

### A. Human Rights Violators and War Crimes Center

Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) is the investigative arm of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and the largest investigative component under the DHS umbrella. HSI is responsible for investigating transnational crime and threats. ICE created the Human Rights Violators and War Crimes Unit (HRVWCU) to further advance its mission to identify, investigate, prosecute, and remove individuals who have committed human rights violations and war crimes, including acts of torture, genocide, extrajudicial killings, gender-based violence, and the use or recruitment of child soldiers. Under the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA), ICE has the authority to investigate, detain, remove, or deport such individuals to their respective home countries, so that they may face justice in the jurisdictions in which these crimes were committed. HSI also investigates violations under Title 18, including torture, genocide, recruitment and use of child soldiers, female genital mutilation (FGM), and visa and naturalization fraud.

HRVWCU works closely with ICE's Office of the Principal Legal Advisor (OPLA), which provides legal advice and litigation support to HRVWCU, among other ICE program offices, as well as to attorneys and case agents in ICE's various field offices, both domestically and internationally.

ICE created the Human Rights Violators and War Crimes Center (HRVWCC) in 2008 to establish a whole-of-government approach to identifying, investigating, and prosecuting those who commit human rights violations. The HRVWCC's mission is to ensure that the United States does not become a safe haven for human rights violators. To this end, HRVWCC works to proactively prevent violators from entering the United States or from being issued immigration benefits, by providing case support to ongoing criminal investigations and administrative cases, and by generating leads to disseminate to ICE offices for investigation. The HRVWCC leverages the expertise of a select group of special agents, attorneys, criminal analysts, and historians who direct the agency's broader enforcement efforts against those who are known or suspected to have participated in such atrocities. HRVWCC members' work has been honored by the Anti-Defamation League's SHIELD award, the Women in Federal Law Enforcement Leadership Award, and the World Class Policing Awards; and has been highlighted in the feature film *Finding Oscar*, and in the book *American Warlord*, as well as in media outlets such as The New York Times, The Washington Post, Los Angeles Times, National Public Radio, and the British Broadcasting Corporation.

HRVWCC is led by the Chief of HRVWCU and consists of the following components:

- **ICE**
  - **HSI's HRVWCU:** HSI (and the former U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS)) has more than 35 years of experience in investigating modern human rights violations successfully. It was built on a foundation of investigations initiated by the legacy INS, which, along with the legacy U.S.

Customs Service Office of Investigations, formed the basis of the creation of HSI subsequent to the founding of DHS and ICE. HRVWCU shares the mission of the HRVWCC – to ensure that the United States does not become a safe haven for individuals who commit war crimes, genocide, torture, and other human rights abuses.

- **OPLA:** OPLA provides the lead legal support for HRVWCU. In addition, it supports investigations in ICE’s various field offices, supports criminal prosecutions of human rights violators, and handles administrative litigation of human rights violator cases before the immigration courts.
- **Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO):** ERO officially joined HRVWCC in 2019 and, together with its fugitive operations program, leads HRVWCC’s Operation Safe Nation initiative, previously known as Operation No Safe Haven,<sup>1</sup> an enforcement operation aimed at locating and arresting human rights violators with final orders of removal who have absconded.
- **U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS):** USCIS’ Fraud Detection and National Security Directorate works closely with HRVWCC’s regional support investigative teams to provide leads received from USCIS adjudicators. These leads are based on information obtained and developed by USCIS when, in its review of applications filed by those applying for immigration benefits, it identifies suspected human rights violators.
- **Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) International Human Rights Unit (IHRU):** In 2012, FBI IHRU agents and analysts joined the HRVWCC and are co-located wholly within the HRVWCC at HSI’s National Security Investigations Division office. IHRU’s primary focus is on human rights violations under Title 18.
- **U.S. Department of State (DOS), Bureau of Consular Affairs:** In 2016, the Bureau of Consular Affairs joined HRVWCC, providing one full-time foreign service officer to support both the preventative and investigative missions of the HRVWCC.
- **U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), Human Rights and Special Prosecutions Section (HRSP):** In 2017, HRSP joined the HRVWCC. HRSP is HSI’s primary partner in criminal prosecutions, with support from various U.S. Attorney’s Offices, against human rights violators.
- **DOJ Office of Immigration Litigation (OIL):** In 2019, OIL joined the HRVWCC. OIL partners with HSI and OPLA to prosecute civil denaturalization cases when criminal prosecution is not viable.
- **U.S. Department of Defense, U.S. Army Criminal Investigations Division Command, Transregional and Criminal Investigations Unit (TCIU):** In 2016,

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<sup>1</sup> The ERO “Operation No Safe Haven” initiative was renamed to “Operation Safe Nation” in 2022.



TCIU joined the HRVWCC. TCIU is the investigative arm of the Office of Military Commissions, which is responsible for investigating war crimes committed overseas by enemy combatants, including the attack on the USS Cole; the September 11, 2001, attacks; and the debriefing of detainees at Guantanamo Bay. TCIU supports the HRVWCC by providing investigative resources in cases involving individuals with a Department of Defense nexus.

## B. Investigations

### **Regional and Specialty Investigative Support Teams:**

The HRVWCC is composed of four Regional Support Teams (RST) that support the No Safe Haven mission. These RSTs are focused geographically on Latin America, Africa, Europe/Balkans, and Asia/Middle East. The RSTs are composed of Special Agents, attorneys, criminal analysts, and historians who provide programmatic oversight and substantive country-specific expertise to the agents within HSI's 30 Special Agent-in-Charge offices investigating these cases, as well as to the attorneys litigating them. The HRVWCC has two specialty investigative support teams (ISTs) focused on the mitigation of FGM/cutting (C) in the United States and on the identification of persons and businesses involved in serious human rights abuses who may be subject to sanctions pursuant to the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act and several Executive Orders implementing this Act.

- **FGM/C:** The HRVWCC is the primary U.S. Government entity charged with responding to allegations of FGM/C. FGM/C is gender-based violence, a serious human rights abuse, and, when practiced on children, a serious form of child abuse. The HRVWCC investigates allegations of FGM/C against individuals who have subjected or intend to subject young girls to FGM/C in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 116. In 2017, the HRVWCC launched an outreach program at U.S. international airports called "Operation Limelight USA" (OLLUSA). The program aims to safeguard and prevent young girls from being subjected to FGM/C by educating airline passengers about the harm of FGM/C and U.S. laws governing the practice. OLLUSA utilizes specially trained teams, consisting of HSI Special Agents and Victim Assistance Program personnel, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers, and nongovernmental organizations (NGO), to initiate informal discussions about U.S. laws with families traveling to or from regions where FGM/C is prevalent and to provide them with educational materials about the harm of the practice. OLLUSA and HRVWCC-wide trainings continued despite the global Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. In FY 2021, HSI trained 1,899 individuals on FGM/C.
- **Sanctions and the Global Magnitsky Act:** The Global Magnitsky Act (GloMag), 22 U.S.C. § 2656, permits the U.S. Government to block access to U.S. financial systems by targeting global human rights violators as well as the underlying networks they use to enable their activities. The HRVWCC's GloMag IST, in collaboration with the Department of Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) and DOS, identifies, researches, and nominates serious human rights abusers and corrupt foreign officials for sanctions under GloMag and related statutes. In December 2021, pursuant to Executive Order 13818, OFAC designated the Bangladesh Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) as an entity responsible for or complicit in serious human rights abuse, or one that has engaged,

directly or indirectly, in serious human rights abuse. OFAC also designated Benazir Ahmed, among others, as a foreign person who is or has been a leader or official of RAB. RAB is a joint task force founded by the Bangladeshi government in 2004 and comprised of members of the police, army, navy, air force, and border guards seconded to RAB from their respective units. NGOs allege that RAB and other Bangladeshi law enforcement are responsible for torture as well as more than 600 disappearances since 2009 and nearly 600 extrajudicial killings since 2018. The GloMag IST worked with OFAC and other interagency partners to support the designations of Benazir Ahmed and the RAB.

## C. Preventions

**Human Rights Target Tracking Team (HRT3):** HRT3 is a proactive, HSI-led intelligence initiative within the HRVWCC that identifies and prevents the entry of human rights violators to the United States, in coordination with the FBI, DOS, USCIS, and CBP. Since 2003, HRT3 has identified and flagged more than 78,000 potential human rights violators from across the globe. DHS has used these “lookouts” to stop more than 350 suspected human rights violators from entering the United States.

HRT3 collects and analyzes classified and unclassified information regarding mass atrocities, war crimes, and human rights violations to identify suspected perpetrators. HRT3 incorporates this material into a unique HSI intelligence report known as a Human Rights Assessment (HRA). HRAs detail the nuances of various atrocities and indicate the potential grounds of inadmissibility for individuals whom HRT3 identifies as known or suspected human rights violators. HRAs are created at the unclassified level to ensure the widest possible dissemination to HRVWCC partners, to include DOS, CBP, and USCIS. HRAs also are shared with foreign law enforcement agencies, in accordance with established information-sharing agreements. HRT3 works with CBP to prevent the entry of individuals flagged as potential human rights violators. In addition, HRT3 works with DOS to deny the issuance of new visas as well as to revoke visas previously issued to individuals whom HRT3 identifies as known or suspected human rights violators.

**Operation War Crimes Hunter:** In 2014, HSI established Operation War Crimes Hunter to capture, through open-source media, images and videos of human rights violations and those who commit them. The HRVWCU is working closely with HSI’s Innovation Lab to continue to develop HRVWCU’s ability to identify facial images of suspected human rights violators, to extract those images, and, in turn, to share them with partner agencies to prevent human rights violators from entering the United States.

### III. Criminal and Administrative Enforcement Statistics FY 2017–FY 2021

HRVWCC investigates cases involving individuals who have committed violations of the criminal statutes under Title 18 and those who have committed violations of the INA under Title 8. Criminal investigations include violations of 18 U.S.C. §§ 1001 (false statements), 1546 (fraud/visa misuse), 1425 (naturalization fraud), 1621 (perjury), and substantive human rights violations such as 18 U.S.C. §§ 116 (FGM), 1091 (genocide), 2340 (torture), 2441 (war crimes), and 2442 (recruitment/use of child soldiers). Administrative cases include those involving individuals who have persecuted others based on race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion, as well as those who have ordered, incited, assisted, or participated otherwise in Nazi persecution, genocide, torture, extrajudicial killing, particularly severe violations of religious freedom, recruitment or use of child soldiers, or forced abortion and sterilization.

Table 1 highlights various criminal and administrative enforcement actions by the HRVWCC during the FY 2017 through FY 2021 time period. HRVWCC averaged approximately 25 new criminal investigations, 7 criminal arrests, 7 indictments, 4 convictions, and 25 preventative actions per year during this reporting period. Table 2 indicates the number of administrative cases that involve human rights violations of a significant magnitude assigned to the HRVWCC for tracking and assistance.

**Table 1.** HRVWCC Enforcement Statistics

<b>HRVWCC</b>	<b>FY 2017</b>	<b>FY 2018</b>	<b>FY 2019</b>	<b>FY 2020</b>	<b>FY 2021</b>	<b>Total FY 2017-2021</b>
Human Rights Violator Lookouts entered on known or suspected human rights violators	476	735	851	1,225	724	4,011
HRAs produced	10	11	20	17	21	79
Preventions (visa denials, CBP preventions, visa revocations)	25	21	14	15	21	96
New Criminal Investigations	24	15	21	24	42	126
Administrative Arrests	6	12	29	6	6	59
Criminal Arrests	14	10	5	5	1	35
Criminal Indictments	13	11	3	4	5	36
Criminal Convictions	5	7	6	1	1	20

**Table 2.** OPLA Human Rights Violator Administrative Enforcement Statistics

<b>OPLA</b>	<b>FY 2017</b>	<b>FY 2018</b>	<b>FY 2019</b>	<b>FY 2020</b>	<b>FY 2021</b>	<b>Total FY 2017- 2021</b>
Active Known or Suspected Human Rights Interest Cases	1,710	1,768	1,628	1,667	1,711	N/A <sup>2</sup>
Removals/Departures of Known/Suspected Human Rights Violators	47	55	64	30	36	232

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<sup>2</sup> A human rights interest case can be active for more than one year; as such there is no way to provide an accurate FY 2017-2021 cumulative total.

## IV. Efforts to Increase Human Rights Investigations and Prosecutions

### A. Prior Appropriations

The Joint Explanatory Statement and Senate Report 114-264 accompanying the FY 2017 DHS Appropriations Act (P.L. 115-31) enabled the HRVWCC to hire additional personnel such as historians, intelligence research specialists, and criminal investigators to focus on the research, identification, and investigation of human rights violators found within the United States.

The Joint Explanatory Statement stated:

ICE shall allocate not less than \$5,300,000 for war crime investigations, including but not limited to training, transportation, and hiring additional personnel at the OPLA Human Rights Law Section and the HSI Human Rights Violators and War Crimes Unit.<sup>3</sup>

Senate Report 114-264 stated:

As directed in Senate Report 114–68, ICE shall allocate not less than \$5,300,000 for expenses, including but not limited to hiring additional OPLA Human Rights Law Section and HSI Human Rights Violators and War Crimes Unit personnel, training, and transportation.

This allocation provided continued resources to support open investigations, to develop additional investigative leads, and to increase staffing of the HRVWCC. The additional support also allowed the HRVWCC to create a specialized advanced investigative training program for special agents and attorneys, to enhance partnerships with other government agencies, to form new relationships with international NGOs, and to establish OLLUSA, a robust outreach program to educate airline passengers about the harms of FGM and the U.S. laws governing its practice.

### B. Growth of the HRVWCC

In FY 2017, there were 40 individuals permanently assigned in support of the HRVWCC—18 from HSI, 12 from OPLA, and 10 from FBI’s IHRU. Today, as a result of partnership building with other U.S. Government agencies and adding additional personnel to support the HRVWCC mission, there are 74 people supporting the HRVWCC – 24 from HSI, 12 from OPLA, 10 from the FBI, 15 from DOJ/HRSP, and 13 from other partner agencies.

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<sup>3</sup> 163 Cong. Rec. H3811 (daily ed. May 3, 2017) (Explanatory Statement of Rep. Frelinghuysen).

## *1. Building on Partnerships from within the U.S. Government*

The growth of the HRVWCC has been due largely to the building of relationships with interagency partners. DOJ/HRSP joined the HRVWCC in 2017. ICE ERO officially joined in 2019, as did DOJ/OIL. Each of these partnerships has brought dedicated law enforcement personnel, investigative resources, and the knowledge, experience, and support of the partner agencies.

## *2. Creating New Partnerships at Home and Abroad*

During this reporting period, HRVWCC created strong partnerships with two critical stakeholders, international law enforcement personnel from national war crimes units, and foreign and domestic nongovernmental and community-based organizations. HRVWCC has prioritized building partnerships with human rights violators and war crimes investigative units from within the European Union, as well as within the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand, known as the “Five Eyes” alliance. HRVWCC team members represent U.S. law enforcement within two critical collaborative international investigative networks – the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation Analysis Project on Core International Crimes and the European Union Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation Genocide Network. Both networks are dedicated to supporting national authorities’ efforts to investigate and prosecute genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes. Collaboration with these networks creates the opportunity for the HRVWCC law enforcement personnel to discuss, strategize, and share investigative and litigation techniques and resources on various atrocities, potential perpetrators, and the availability of evidence and witnesses to be used in prosecutions.

Nongovernmental and community-based organizations bring connections and resources from a unique perspective, as only members of the diaspora and affected communities can alert ICE to perpetrators within their communities. HRVWCC has worked to build relationships with these communities and has been successful in gaining their trust to work with U.S. law enforcement members.

For example, HRVWCC formed a close collaborative relationship during this reporting period with the Commission for International Justice and Accountability (CIJA), an NGO dedicated to furthering criminal justice efforts by collecting information on crimes committed by the Syrian Regime and the Islamic State against civilian populations. In coordination with DOS’ Office of Global Criminal Justice, CIJA is sharing information that it has collected to identify victims and witnesses in support of U.S. investigations and potential criminal prosecutions of Syrian perpetrators and where applicable, to use this information to prevent perpetrators from entering the United States.

## **C. Developing Outreach and Training Programs**

### *1. Outreach*

In 2017, HRVWCC and the HSI New York field office traveled to London, England, to meet with the Metropolitan Police Service and to discuss its efforts to address FGM through the public awareness campaign, “Operation Limelight.” The HRVWCC and HSI New York field office

subsequently decided to create OLLUSA, a U.S.-based version of the United Kingdom's successful campaign.

The purpose of OLLUSA is to protect young girls from the practice of FGM through education and outreach. FGM is unlawful in the United States, is a form of child abuse, and carries severe criminal as well as immigration consequences for those who commit or aid others to commit this heinous crime. Outreach efforts at U.S. international airports seek to educate inbound and outbound passengers from high-risk countries, as well as to identify girls who may be at immediate risk of FGM or who have been subjected to FGM. HRVWCC, in conjunction with HSI field offices, has conducted OLLUSA outreach programs in Atlanta, Dallas, Detroit, Houston, Los Angeles, Minneapolis/St Paul, New York, Newark, Philadelphia, Phoenix, San Francisco, San Diego, and Washington, D.C. Since June 2017, HRVWCC, in partnership with NGOs and community-based organizations, FBI, and CBP, have engaged with nearly 5,000 passengers on 198 international flights. ICE will continue to work with the DHS Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties to help to ensure that special agents are trained not to profile travelers racially while conducting the outreach events. The outreach program has been well-received by the public with positive media coverage. Following the resumption of more normal travel and flight operations, HRVWCC plans to expand OLLUSA outreach in FY 2022 to airports in San Antonio, Las Vegas, and Chicago.

## *2. Training*

**Human Rights Violators and War Crimes Advanced Investigative Training:** In 2016, HRVWCC created and conducted a comprehensive advanced training course on investigating human rights violators and war criminals found within the United States' jurisdiction. This course was created to provide ICE law enforcement personnel with intensive academic instruction on the fundamental practical and legal elements needed to investigate human rights violators and war criminals, background country information, and best practices. The inaugural course was conducted at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers in Brunswick, Georgia, with additional classes occurring yearly thereafter, totaling 6 classes and more than 180 participants, until they were suspended because of the COVID-19 pandemic. HRVWCC has conducted virtual trainings while it awaits the reopening of in-person training.

**FGM:** HRVWCC has trained more than 1,600 law enforcement, congressional, and community-based personnel on FGM from FYs 2017-2021. Trainings focus on the definition of FGM, its practice, prevalence, and legal implications, as well as on U.S. Government efforts to stop the practice. HRVWCC has trained individuals across the United States at law enforcement offices, professional conferences, and outreach events hosted by community-based organizations.

## **D. Impediments to Investigating/Prosecuting Cases Involving Human Rights Violators**

There are numerous impediments to investigating and prosecuting cases involving human rights violators. For example, the passage of time makes obtaining information difficult. Accessing witnesses and documents located thousands of miles away in foreign countries, coupled with language barriers and challenges in communicating with foreign partners, add an additional layer of difficulty. Once documentary evidence is located, it often must be translated at considerable

expense. These investigations often require highly specialized knowledge and expertise that HRVWCC does not have and as such, it must rely on the work of outside experts and NGOs who may be unwilling or unable to assist. Widespread impunity in certain countries and a lack of cooperation by security forces in investigating these cases presents difficult obstacles to overcome. In addition, in FY 2021, HRVWCC struggled with its ability to investigate cases outside the continental United States because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

## E. Whether Funding is Sufficient to Support Unit

Additional resources would allow HRVWCC to create specialized teams to pursue leads related to conflicts throughout the world. For example, currently there is no team of special agents, analysts, and attorneys dedicated solely to addressing the crisis in Ukraine. Specialized conflict teams would allow additional resources to support developing investigations, intelligence analysis, and gathering of evidence as major conflicts evolve.



## V. Conclusion

Over the last 5 fiscal years, HRVWCC has worked to ensure that the United States is not a haven for persecutors, human rights violators, or war criminals. During that time period, its work has led to 126 criminal investigations, 35 criminal arrests, 36 indictments, 20 convictions, and 59 administrative arrests. HRVWCC has sought to increase the number of human rights investigations and prosecutions by growing its staffing, by building partnerships, and by developing outreach and training programs.

## VI. Abbreviations

<b>Abbreviation</b>	<b>Definition</b>
CBP	U.S. Customs and Border Protection
CIJA	Commission for International Justice and Accountability
COVID-19	Coronavirus Disease 2019
DHS	Department of Homeland Security
DOJ	Department of Justice
DOS	Department of State
ERO	Enforcement and Removal Operations
FBI	Federal Bureau of Investigation
FGM/C	Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting
FY	Fiscal Year
GloMag	Global Magnitsky Act
HRA	Human Rights Assessment
HRSP	Human Rights and Special Prosecutions Section
HRT3	Human Rights Target Tracking Team
HRVWCC	Human Rights Violators and War Crimes Center
HRVWCU	Human Rights Violators and War Crime Unit
HSI	Homeland Security Investigations
ICE	U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
IHRU	International Human Rights Unit
INA	Immigration and Nationality Act
INS	U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service
IST	Investigative Support Team
NGO	Nongovernmental Organization
OFAC	Office of Foreign Assets Control
OIL	Office of Immigration Litigation
OLLUSA	Operation Limelight USA
OPLA	Office of the Principal Legal Advisor
RAB	Rapid Action Battalion
RST	Regional Support Team
TCIU	Transregional and Criminal Investigations Unit
USCIS	U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services