Mission Statement

Campaign for Innocent Victims in Conflict works on behalf of war victims by advocating that warring parties recognize and help the civilians they harm. CIVIC supports the principle that it is never acceptable for a warring party to ignore civilian suffering.

In 2005, CIVIC’s founder Marla Ruzicka was killed in Iraq by a suicide bomb while advocating for families of victims. CIVIC honors her legacy and strives to sustain her vision.

Staff

Sarah Holewinski, executive director
Marla Keenan, associate director
Jeanette Lespect, associate
Erica Gaston, Harvard Law School fellow
Scott Paul, UN fellow
Chris Rogers, Harvard Law School fellow

2009 Interns

Laura Barker
Leslie Gildea
Ashley Lucas
Carole Muedder

Nejla Saula
Nadisha Sirisena
Terese Whitehead

Front Cover CIVIC advocates that warring parties recognize and make amends for harm to civilians. An Afghan boy is seen in a market bazaar in Khan Neshin, Afghanistan. Chris Hondros.

Back Cover CIVIC works with Iraqi civil society, international NGOs and USAID building capacity to help Iraqi civilians. These Iraqi Shia Muslims are walking from Baghdad to Karbala, in one of the pilgrimages that were frequent targets of violence. Chris Hondros.
Dear friends,

When the world’s economy faltered a year ago, CIVIC faced the prospect of closing its doors. I was deeply gratified that support and offers of help flooded in to ensure our survival. We heard time and again that no one could pick up the CIVIC mantel should we close or scale back our work. In the end, 2009 became our most successful year to date, measured by real policy change and increasing awareness among warring parties of civilian harm.

Warring parties do not often hear from the civilians they harm; they hear from CIVIC, making our advocacy role vital. Our successes in 2009 included the following:

• Advocating and helping design a new US program for Pakistani war victims, for which the US Congress appropriated $10 million;
• Training US officers and enlisted forces and contributing to new Army policies;
• Securing funds for a Harvard fellow now working on CIVIC’s behalf in Islamabad;
• Pressing the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan for a uniform compensation system;
• Helping tell the story of Iraqi war victims through a critically acclaimed off-Broadway drama;
• Creating a new coalition called the Making Amends Campaign—an effort supported by a steering committee comprised of Human Rights Watch, Handicap International USA and International Crisis Group.

We accomplished all of this—and much more—on a budget of $380,000. It is humbling to know how close our successes came to being unrealized and thus unwritten.

In 2010, CIVIC must grow to move forward in several key areas: ensuring civilians in Afghanistan and Pakistan receive the dignity they deserve from warring parties; strengthening a safety net for civilian war victims in Iraq; publishing authoritative reports on civilian harm in Pakistan and, separately, Nepal; and building the foundation of a global movement to change the outcome of war for civilian victims.

I thank you for your continued commitment to our work. I look forward to updating you on our progress in 2010.

Sincerely,

Sarah Holewinski
Executive Director
CIVIC completed 2009 and entered its seventh year with a record of remarkable successes and significant opportunities on the horizon. Our work includes two programs.

**Heal the Wounds** is CIVIC’s advocacy program focused on warring parties in recent and ongoing conflicts, with the goal of ensuring civilian dignity and assistance. Success will be measured by the increased wellbeing of civilian survivors of conflict.

**The Making Amends Campaign** is a coalition effort to create a new international standard of behavior among warring parties. The campaign’s success will be measured by increased recognition among warring parties that providing help to civilians is imperative.

These programs are of equal importance and work in tandem: CIVIC is building a principle in armed conflict and is pressing for practical application of that principle in conflict zones. Our advocacy among policymakers is supported by our outreach work in the media and public forums as a voice for victims.

**Washington:** CIVIC focused a significant part of its work in 2009 on improving US war-time policies toward civilians. Our staff trained US troops on civilian harm at Ft. Leavenworth, Ft. Belvoir, and Ft. Monroe, and cadets at West Point. Upon request from the Center for Army Lessons Learned, CIVIC contributed the only civilian-authored article for the new Escalation of Force manual distributed to US troops in Afghanistan.

To help improve the US military’s compensation system in active war theaters, CIVIC is working with the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) to analyze civilian claims documents recently released by the US Department of Defense. In 2009, CIVIC analyzed nearly 20,000 pages of files by Iraqis and Afghans and in 2010 will co-publish our findings with the ACLU. CIVIC worked with Sen. Patrick Leahy’s legal counsel and a group of US military lawyers to draft the Civilian Assistance Act—legislation designed to streamline and make more effective the compensation system. The legislation may be introduced in 2010.

CIVIC recommended to the Pentagon the appointment of a new high-level advisor to address civilian protection and harm in current operating theaters—a position currently under consideration by Defense Secretary Robert Gates. CIVIC advocated funding for the war victims support programs that CIVIC helped create in Iraq and Afghanistan; the subsequent appropriations cycles included $37 million for these programs. We pressed the Congress to create a similar program in Pakistan, which it did with an appropriation of $10 million. Since the inception of these programs, CIVIC has thus secured more than $140 million from the US government to directly aid war victims.

The US leads by example in making amends to civilians suffering losses—in many cases thanks to CIVIC’s advocacy and hands-on trainings.

**Afghanistan:** Afghan civilians continue to suffer losses of life, limb and property in the fighting between international forces, Afghan troops, and the Taliban.

After a year of field research, CIVIC released the ground-breaking report, *Losing the People: The Costs and Consequences of Civilian Suffering in Afghanistan*. It is the first
that examines the war’s impact on civilians; documents existing compensation, support and relief efforts; and provides recommendations to the warring parties on addressing civilian harm. CIVIC was invited to present its findings to Senate staff, State Department officers and Gen. David Petraeus. The report generated significant coverage by the Washington Post, CNN, CBC, al-Jazeera, and Voice of America. We simultaneously held intensive discussions with policymakers to press the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan to adopt a common compensation policy for civilians harmed.

The lack of any common strategy among international forces in Afghanistan to address civilian harm has led to unfair and inconsistent treatment of the population, with most war victims receiving no apology, compensation or aid following deaths, injuries, and property damage. We participated in high-level meetings at ISAF headquarters in Kabul and at NATO headquarters in Brussels, but a common policy remains elusive for political reasons. Rather than become cynical about these roadblocks, CIVIC is entering 2010 with renewed determination to see Afghan civilians who suffered losses receive the help and recognition they deserve from all ISAF troop contributing nations.

Pakistan: A Harvard Law fellow began a year of full-time work for CIVIC in Pakistan to assess civilian assistance efforts and document what help Pakistani war victims want or need. His interviews with victims, survivors, civil society, and military or government officials are mapping the fractured support system for civilians harmed in the conflict.

No humanitarian aid program is currently in place to specifically help war victims of this conflict. CIVIC was the only organization pointing out that the US military had already learned this lesson in Afghanistan and Iraq, and called on both the US and Pakistani Governments to recognize and address civilian casualties with strategic distribution of assistance to civilians harmed. CIVIC will publish a report on our findings in fall 2010, including extensively researched recommendations to the Pakistani Government, the US Government, the UN, and stakeholder/donor nations. We are particularly concerned about the opaque nature of the US drone program and its targeting procedures.

Iraq: CIVIC worked to fortify the safety net for civilians suffering losses by working with the US Government, Iraqi civil society, and international NGOs to ensure proper aid funding and increase the capacity of local organizations to take on the challenge of caring for Iraqi war victims. This work will intensify in 2010 as the international community’s focus on Iraq wanes.

CIVIC accompanied a team of playwrights to Jordan to interview Iraqis displaced by the war. The writers crafted those conversations into a critically acclaimed theatrical performance called *Aftermath*, which received stellar reviews from the New York Times, Variety, and the Daily News. CIVIC looks forward to bringing *Aftermath* to Washington DC in 2010.

Israel/Palestine: Following the conflict in late 2008, CIVIC called on Israel to make amends to the civilians accidentally harmed, contribute financially to the reconstruction in Gaza, and lift the aid blockade. In 2009, CIVIC submitted a brief to the UN fact-finding commission’s investigations of war crimes headed by Justice Richard Goldstone, documenting cases of accidental civilian
harm and calling for amends to survivors.

**Georgia/Russia:** CIVIC met with Georgian officials to discuss amends for the civilians injured and displaced by the fighting during 2008 with Russia over South Ossetia. Georgia spent roughly $250 million to build homes for a large majority of the internally displaced population or offered civilians help to rebuild in the form of cash, building materials and supplies. CIVIC began codifying lessons learned—both good and bad—through these assistance programs for displaced civilians.

**Nepal:** CIVIC documented traditional compensation practices in the region as well as efforts to offer condolences (whether monetary or symbolic) to 13,000 victims’ families. A team from Harvard Law School traveled to Nepal on CIVIC’s behalf to interview war victims, civil society and government officials. CIVIC and Harvard will jointly publish a report aimed at policy makers in Nepal and Europe.

**Philippines:** CIVIC advocated in the media for all armed groups in the Philippines to protect civilians and pressed legislators to approve a bill that would compensate civilian victims.

**Somalia:** With constant fighting in the capital, Mogadishu, CIVIC was particularly concerned about the internally displaced population, now without homes or a place to go. CIVIC documented traditional and existing mechanisms of compensation with an optimistic view of an eventual peace process. In 2009, prior to the adoption of the African Union (AU) convention on internally displaced persons, CIVIC partnered with 10 other leading African and international NGOs to outline steps for AU member states to create meaningful improvements in internally displaced persons’ security and welfare.

**Sri Lanka:** CIVIC actively monitored the conflict in Sri Lanka and, along with NGO partners, urged the warring parties to avoid civilian casualties. CIVIC highlighted in media interviews and through its online field reports the conditions in the displaced persons camps.

**Making Amends Campaign:** In 2009, CIVIC formed an NGO coalition dedicated to creating a new expectation in armed conflict—that warring parties will recognize and help the civilians they harm. Organized and led by CIVIC, the Making Amends Campaign (MAC) is overseen by a steering committee comprised of International Crisis Group, Human Rights Watch and Handicap International USA. Humanitarian and advocacy organizations from around the world are signing on.

UN missions, international organizations and armed conflict experts have enthusiastically received the new effort on the international stage. In 2010, the MAC will focus on the work of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the UN Children’s Fund, the Peacebuilding Commission, and the Human Rights Council. Our goal among all the UN bodies is to highlight the principle of making amends and garner broad agreement that the principle fills a gap in the international framework for civilian dignity in war.
Left In 2009-2010, a Harvard Law School team working on CIVIC’s behalf documented compensation and condolence practices to families of the missing in Nepal’s civil war. Dew Sara was seeking information about the fate of her husband, whom she said authorities had taken from his home. Bonnie Docherty.

Right CIVIC worked with the US Congress to create the Pakistan Civilian Assistance Program, the first US-funded program for war victims in Pakistan. Mohammed Iyar Khan was displaced from Bajaur Agency when the Pakistani army bulldozed his house. Chris Rogers.
## Financials

### Statement of Financial Position

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assets</th>
<th>December 31, 2009</th>
<th>December 31, 2008</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current Assets</td>
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<tr>
<td>Checking/Savings</td>
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<td>Other Current Assets</td>
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<td>Fixed Assets</td>
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<td><strong>125,240.63</strong></td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Liabilities &amp; Equity</th>
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<td>Current Liabilities</td>
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<td>Accounts Payable</td>
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<td>Equity</td>
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<td><strong>Total Liabilities &amp; Equity</strong></td>
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<td><strong>125,240.63</strong></td>
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### Statement of Activities

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<thead>
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<th>Income</th>
<th>December 31, 2009</th>
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<td>Grants Unrestricted</td>
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<td>Grants Temporarily Restricted</td>
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<td>Individual Contributions</td>
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<td>Investment Income</td>
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<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
<td><strong>469,569.32</strong></td>
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In 2009, CIVIC’s grantors offered their support in the form of general operating funds.
**Statement of Activities (continued)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expense</th>
<th>Management</th>
<th>Fundraising</th>
<th>Voice for Victims</th>
<th>Heal the Wounds</th>
<th>Making Amends Campaign</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<td>Salaries</td>
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<td><strong>338,946.25</strong></td>
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*Includes Bank & Credit Card Fees, Books & Periodicals, Postage & Deliveries, Repairs & Maintenance, and Staff Development.

**Expenses**

- **Management - 6%**
- **Fundraising - 8%**
- **Voice for Victims - 5%**
- **Heal the Wounds - 57%**
- **Making Amends Campaign - 24%**
Supporters

Open Society Institute
The Countess Moira Charitable Foundation

Anonymous (4)
Frances Bertagnolli
Jessica Blank, Erik Jensen, and the artists of Aftermath
Chalkie Davies
Sabra Field
FJC - Foundation of Philanthropic Funds
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Nancy Hechinger
Megan Hull
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Tara Sutton
Peggy and Lee Zeigler

Gifts in Kind

Chris Hondros
International Human Rights Clinic, Harvard Law School
Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP

CIVIC also wishes to thank its many other supporters, without whom much of our work would not be possible.
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