

UZBEKISTAN HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER SUPPORT PROJECT

A Project of Freedom House

Funded by the U.S. State Department's Bureau for Democracy, Human Rights and Labour and the United States Agency for International Development

Annual Workplan

Workplan Period: July 1, 2004 to June 13, 2005

I. Executive Summary

The Uzbekistan Human Rights Defender Support Project has the primary aim of improving human rights protections by strengthening the role, skills, strategies, and protection of human rights defenders (HRDs) throughout Uzbekistan. To meet this goal, the Human Rights Defender Support Project will be targeted toward achieving the following results:

- Increased capacity of Uzbek human rights defenders in monitoring, reporting, and advocacy;
- Improved strategies and working relations among human rights defenders;
- Increased access by human rights activists to international human rights reporting mechanisms;
- Improved capacity of Uzbek human rights defenders in communication, outreach, mobilization throughout Uzbekistan; and
- Development of protection strategies.

During the third and final year of the Human Rights Defender Support project in Uzbekistan, Freedom House will continue to provide technical assistance and training, resources, and protection to local human rights defenders to grow their capacity to address human rights issues and to have a greater impact on the protection of human rights. The major objectives of this annual phase will be to provide resources, advice, and safe venues for human rights work to take place, encourage and consolidate a "community" of human rights defenders in Uzbekistan, increase outreach capabilities of local human rights organizations, and encourage regional cooperation between HRDs from different countries in Central Asia.

II. Background

During the past two years the Resource Centers in Tashkent and Namangan have provided safe places for human rights defenders to carry out human rights work. The Tashkent Center provided the first venue in which HRDs could safely hold press conferences, interact on a daily basis with other defenders, debate issues in special meetings and roundtables, meet with international human rights delegations, access resources, equipment, and Internet to educate themselves on human rights issues,

document human rights cases, and report to international bodies. The Tashkent Center receives over 700 visits per month by human rights activists who seek on-site advisory services from two expatriate staff and three Uzbek human rights officers.

The first group of 25 Uzbek human rights defenders graduated from Freedom House's 4-part training series on human rights monitoring, documenting and reporting during the first year. A second group from the Ferghana Valley is currently in training. Freedom House conducted a full cycle of four training sessions on capacity building for human rights organizations including developing communication and negotiation skills, team building and coalition building, advocacy and public campaign strategies. Human Rights Watch noted that a critical component provided by the Freedom House program is direct consulting and mentoring of HRDs by program staff on how to process and pursue human rights cases. During the second year, the program facilitated cooperation between various human rights NGOs, and furthered the development of protection strategies for human rights defenders including an emergency fund for lawyers, and a communication network in cases of arrest and harassment by the government.

Freedom House plans to continue implementing its strategy of building mechanisms of cooperation and solidarity between human rights defenders in order to assist the development of a community of human rights defenders in Uzbekistan. In the third year of the project, Freedom House will specifically target less exposed and younger human rights defenders from the Samarkand and Karshi regions. As it did through its training program in the first and second year, Freedom House plans to work intensively to reach additional "layers" of the human rights groups beyond the spokespersons and leaders of the organizations, including younger activists in the human rights community; to encourage human rights organizations to reach out to HRDs and civic groups in the regions; to assist interested human rights activists and groups to register their human rights organizations; and to increase collaboration among them on ad-hoc issues as well as to broaden HRDs' focus by conducting regional exchanges (through study tours and external consultants) within Central Asia and beyond.

Following important developments during the second year, Freedom House will continue widening communication channels with the Uzbek government to help position human rights NGOs as legitimate watchdog organizations with the ability to intervene and request redress to human rights abuses. An important focus for the third year will be developing advocacy and negotiation skills of human rights defenders to effectively approach government agencies and local authorities with human rights concerns. Freedom House staff will also establish a training and consultation mechanism for various working groups of human rights defenders to develop strategies and the necessary communication skills for interaction with official institutions and the media as well as for successful community outreach.

Freedom House will also encourage the professional development of those local human rights defenders who have demonstrated leadership qualities and capacity as trainers. This core group of local trainers will be engaged to provide basic human rights training to organizations throughout Uzbekistan.

III. Program Activities

Freedom House's approach will target four primary areas: 1) consolidating the services and resources of the Tashkent, Namangan, and new Samarkand Resource Centers; 2) establishing a community of human rights defenders; 3) addressing current contextual and organizational constraints on HRDs' work; 4) developing a mechanism of oversight by HRDs of the government performance in the human rights area.

A. Consolidating and Expanding Resources and Services through the Human Rights Information and Resource Centers

The three Resource Centers will provide the following services to Uzbek HRDs:

- Technical advice and consultation on handling human rights cases on a daily basis by Freedom House staff;
- Use of meeting facilities for HRDs and human rights organizations;
- Photocopy and printing services;
- Use of computers and Internet;
- Facilitation of press conferences for HRDs and dissemination of press releases;
- Organizing briefings for international visitors with HRDs;
- Organizing roundtables and debates for HRDs; and
- Thematic trainings for HRDs.

In addition, the Resource Centers will continue to provide consultations on legal strategies through the lawyers supported by the OSCE, ABA-CEELI, ICNL, and Swiss Development Corporation. Freedom House expatriate staff is surveying the capacity of other international organizations working with law and will measure the possible fields of cooperation with those organizations.

1. Tashkent Resource Center

The Human Rights Information and Resource Center is located in a spacious house at 29 Okilova Street in Tashkent. This is a location convenient to the human rights community with easy access to public transportation and to other human rights organizations. The Center has a large resource room, which is used to house informational materials, computers, and sufficient workspace for as many as 10 activists. The Center also has two large conference rooms for trainings and roundtables as well as separate meeting rooms for casual discussions and film presentations.

Tashkent Resource Center Staff

In the third year of the project, the Tashkent Office will be staffed as follows: an expatriate Project Director, an expatriate Senior Program Officer, an expatriate Operations Manager, three local human rights officers/trainers, three program assistants.

a translator, an office manager, an accountant, an information technology officer, a receptionist, guards, and a driver.

During the first two years of the project, Freedom House hired three local human rights officers/trainers with local and international human rights education and experience. Two of them have left during the spring of 2004 and Freedom House is currently recruiting replacements. The program staff is based in the Tashkent Resource Center to provide on-going technical assistance with information and resource identification and management, Internet skills development and problem-solving techniques, writing and editing reports, coordination among local human rights defenders and organizations, and chairing the Working Groups Round Table meetings. The training staff also supports the Project Director and the Senior Program Officer in the design and delivery of training workshops. In addition, the Tashkent human rights officers will train and assist the human rights officers in the Namangan Resource Center. Freedom House is currently recruiting a new Senior Program Officer, as the present SPO is leaving at the end of June. The SPO assists the Director in all programmatic and management matters and serves as her deputy. The Operations Manager, who will start her duties at the end of June, will support the Director in overseeing the financial and administrative matters and the day-to-day operations of the office.

Additionally, Freedom House will use consultants and trainers to strengthen specific components of its program such as human rights monitoring and reporting, prison and trial monitoring, developing communication and networking skills. Freedom House will use the services of trainers from Central and Eastern Europe, particularly the Polish Helsinki Foundation, the School of Politics in Bulgaria and several human rights groups from Serbia.

Freedom House will continue using the services of volunteer interns – law students from the University of Tashkent who are interested in human rights – to provide assistance at the Resource Centers.

Timing:

On-going

2. Ferghana Valley Resource Center

The Human Rights Information and Resource Center is located in a spacious house in Namangan. The Center has a large resource room, which is used to house informational materials, computers, and sufficient workspace for as many as six activists. The Center also has one large conference room for trainings and roundtables as well as separate office space for the local staff. The Resource Center is staffed by an expatriate Manager, and two Program Assistants. The current manager will assume the responsibilities of Resource Centers Manager and provide support and oversight to the three centers in Tashkent, Namangan and Samarkand. He will remain in Namangan until Freedom House recruits a new manager.

Staff Development

During the second year of the program, the Tashkent-based staff provided onsite training in both programmatic work and management to the staff of the Namangan Resource Center in the Ferghana Valley. The staff received training on international human rights and their domestic application, the mandate and protocol for the Resource Center and its users, and development of activity plans, proposals and budgets.

Freedom House Human Rights Officers from the Tashkent office organized the first two sessions of a four-month training program for HRDs in the Ferghana Valley [see training section, part B]. The last two sessions of the training will take place in July and August 2004. The Tashkent office staff assisted the Namangan Center in developing resources and services, creating a library collection, and facilitating events.

3. Samarkand Resource Center

The third Freedom House Resource Center will be opened in Samarkand. Freedom House changed the time and the planned location for the third resource center for several reasons:

- The registration of Freedom House in Uzbekistan was problematic for several months and was only received in April 2004. The authorities have warned Freedom House staff that the planned new center in Karshi – the first considered location - should be registered with the local *hakimiat*. Given that the registration with the central government was delayed, Freedom House could not undertake assessment and opening before April.
- The bombings in Tashkent and Bukhara in March-April caused security concerns and the roads to Karshi were closed for several weeks. Subsequently, Freedom House decided that maintaining a center in a location exposed to security risks would be a resource-consuming task. Given that many HRDs are located in the Samarkand and the wider Sar-darya region, the center will serve a significant geographical area and will be used as an outreach base to Bukhara as well. Simultaneously, Freedom House plans to establish cooperation with a local NGO in Karshi and deliver training courses for local HRDs in this area.

Similar to the Namangan and Tashkent centers, the Samarkand Center will serve local HRDs with resources, knowledge, consultation, and training. Freedom House expects to open the new center in July 2004. Thereafter, Freedom House staff will undertake a needs assessment to determine the most effective training area for Samarkand HRDs and will design the training accordingly. The Resource Center will be staffed by a Manager, an Office Manager, and a Program Assistant.

Staff Development

Freedom House staff will provide onsite training in both programmatic work and management to the staff of the newly opened Resource Center in Samarkand. The staff will be trained on international human rights and their domestic application, the mandate

and protocol for the Resource Center and its users, and development of activity plans and budgets.

Freedom House Human Rights Officers from both offices will assist in organizing a four-month training program for HRDs in Samarkand and train the local staff in the subject areas [see training section, part B]. The Tashkent and Namangan office staff will assist the Samarkand Center in developing resources and services, creating a library collection, and facilitating events.

4. Support for the Resource Centers

Develop Services and Resource Materials

On-Going

Freedom House will continue compiling material resources, in English, Russian and, where available, in the Uzbek language, for the libraries in the Resource Centers. The resources include training guides, reference guides, periodicals, human rights reports and materials, and copies of international and Uzbek laws. Where sources are not available in Russian or Uzbek languages, Freedom House will translate them into Russian and, as often as possible, into Uzbek.

As an important part of human rights education and training, including training-for-trainers, Freedom House will continue developing resource materials such as training manuals, practical manuals on human rights, and other necessary training literature in Russian and Uzbek. Freedom House has a core group of principal documents in English and Uzbek, which are actively used in training sessions and workshops. Such documents include the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Second Optional Protocol International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, as well as official complaint forms for thematic U.N. Special Rapporteurs.

The Uzbek National Center for Human Rights has provided Uzbek translation of these documents. Russian translation has been extracted from the Polish Helsinki Committee electronic database of international human rights documents. FH Uzbekistan has developed its own training manual based on the structure and content of a 4-month Human Rights Course. FH staff and trainers have modified the manual for the 4-month Human Rights Course in Freedom House's Namangan Resource Center.

Freedom House will continue to update and also develop additional databases of information about human rights defenders and international donors offering assistance to HRDs. The databases include lists of human rights activists and the work that they are conducting, contact information for lawyers who are available to assist in human rights

cases, journalists who are reporting on these issues, as well as the donor community dealing with human rights, both locally and internationally. The databases not only assist human rights activists in their work, but also serve as a mechanism for sharing information and building connections between individuals working in the field.

The Tashkent Center will continue to compile a list of human rights Internet resources and websites in Russian, Uzbek and English and to make the list accessible in all Resource Centers. The list will include numerous relevant materials on Central Asia and important international human rights documents. In order to enhance information dissemination, Freedom House will arrange for some of the major reports on Uzbekistan to be translated to Uzbek. For example, FH translated and distributed the UN Special Rapporteur's fact-finding report and excerpts from FH publications concerning Uzbekistan.

Freedom House will continue to develop the library of the Resource Centers by purchasing new books and publications, creating a library catalogue, and translating some of the more relevant and most useful reference materials. The libraries will also contain educational videos and human rights films, which are going to be presented once a week to a group of human rights defenders.

Freedom House has developed and further refined a "Code of Conduct" for the use of the Resource Centers in order to introduce clear rules for users and to prevent incidents of disturbing behaviour by the visitors. The Code of Conduct is prominently displayed in both Resource Centers and will be displayed in the Samarkand Resource Center. Freedom House staff will monitor the observance of the Code by the HRDs.

Technical Development

On-Going

Since its opening in the summer of 2002, the Tashkent Resource Center has become an important point of interaction and education for human rights defenders. The number of people using the Centers is increasing every day. This has put more demands on the Freedom House staff and has increased demand for available material resources such as workstations and meeting rooms. Currently, the Tashkent Resource Center operates with five computers connected to the Internet, one printer, a copy machine, and telephone/fax. The Namangan Center has two computers connected to the Internet and available to human rights defenders. The Samarkand Center will have three computers available for use by human rights defenders.

The demand for use of computers, printers, and Internet by local human rights defenders has increased significantly. Along with computers connected to the Internet, a great number of the HRDs need workstations for word processing - to prepare letters, reports, and proposals. To meet this demand, Freedom House purchased additional low cost word processors and set up new workspaces in the basement of the Tashkent Center facility.

In order to improve the work of human rights defenders in documenting human rights cases, Freedom House has installed human rights documentation software and databases

on all computers. Currently, MARTUS software (human rights documentation) is installed on resource center computers.

The Freedom House IT specialist is working on communications security and better Internet access for HRDs, as well as developing a more reliable IT network for both FH Resource Centers. In collaboration with human rights officers, the IT specialist develops training for HRDs on computer and Internet literacy. These trainings will be frequently provided to HRDs in all Resource Centers.

Advisory Group Involvement

On-Going

The Tashkent Resource Center has established an advisory group of human rights activists, lawyers, journalists and representatives of international organizations. Currently, the advisory body serves as a panel to evaluate and rate the numerous small grants applications received since the announcement of the small grant program in May 2003. Freedom House will continue consulting the advisory group on issues such as evaluation of the role of the Centers and development of new services. The advisory body will be further used to help in developing relations with local authorities and common initiatives for the human rights community.

Based on the Tashkent model, Freedom House will initiate the formation of a local advisory body for the Namangan Center. Freedom House will solicit resumes and conduct interviews to test the commitment and relative knowledge of the potential members. Once advisory body members are selected, Freedom House will orchestrate and facilitate structured meetings that will not only serve the purpose of guiding the work of the Center, but will also enhance the skills of the members in participating in a constructive board that has positive impact on the work it is overseeing. Freedom House will encourage the group to set agendas and rules for meetings, to help define a mandate for the Center and to assist in the development of activities that will monitor the effectiveness and success of the Center in meeting the needs of the human rights community. The advisory group will convene on a quarterly basis and hold special meetings when necessary.

Public Relations for Resource Centers

On-going

Freedom House will continue developing promotional materials about the Centers, which clearly detail the resources and services that are available. The promotional materials – brochures and leaflets – will be distributed through the existing network of human rights defenders and other civic organizations. Freedom House has initiated the electronic publication of a newsletter on its activities in Uzbekistan. Currently, the newsletter covers human rights issues and related legislation and activities. Freedom House will also continue to conduct radio and newspaper interviews as well as encourage write-ups in NGO bulletins to publicize and invite human rights defenders to utilize the Centers.

5. Events in the Resource Centers

Roundtables

The Freedom House Resource Centers will continue hosting regular roundtables for local human rights actors. The roundtables will discuss the major issues involving human rights in Uzbekistan and each roundtable will focus on a specific theme, such as torture, wrongful detention, protection strategies and coordination. A human rights defender or organization that works specifically on the theme to be addressed will prepare a report for presentation at the roundtable. Every roundtable will culminate in the development of recommendations on how to deal with the problem. It is expected that the series of roundtables will not only encourage communication and coordination among local human rights defenders, but will also build a strong, reliable network of HRDs working out of the Resource Centers.

In the recent months, Freedom House has initiated roundtable discussions with the participation of government officials from the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Justice, NSS, and the Prosecutor General's office. During these special events, human rights defenders working groups have the opportunity to advocate for addressing pressing human rights issues and develop mechanisms for reaction and prevention of abuses. The success of these roundtables demonstrates that interaction between government bodies, and particularly the power ministries, is necessary to relieve repression and limit abuses. Freedom House will continue encouraging both HRDs and government agencies to deepen such a dialogue for solving grave human rights problems.

Human Rights Movie Evenings

In its Resource Center libraries, Freedom House has shown human rights movies on a regular basis. Freedom House will continue to organize human rights movie evenings to broaden the knowledge and perspective of human rights defenders about the human rights situation in other countries. The evenings will be followed by moderated discussion about the human rights situation in other countries. The moderators will be experienced about the situation in target countries. This event commenced during the second year of the project and received an overwhelmingly positive response. Freedom House will continue to meet this demand and will endeavour to increase the human rights film collection in each library.

Timing:

On-going

B. Human Rights Defenders Training Workshops

Freedom House will complete the last two sessions of its training series, "Defending Human Rights: A Practical Application" for defenders in Namangan and carry out the training course for defenders in Samarkand in the fall, and Karshi in the spring. Freedom House's Senior Program Officer, trained local staff and external trainers will design, deliver and evaluate the training program. The training program is designed with the following objectives:

- Develop skills in monitoring, reporting and advocacy;
- Promote human rights NGOs' mandates and strategic planning for effective human rights monitoring, reporting, and advocacy;
- Develop strategies and skills in working with local authorities;
- Develop strategies for gaining access to justice sector institutions and officials;
- Engender a thorough understanding of local and international legal processes enabling HRDs to advocate for adherence to rule of law principles in protecting human rights;
- Engender a professional understanding of human rights protection and advocacy work, thereby clarifying the confusion between political opposition and human rights; and
- Promote information sharing, closer coordination, and, where possible, collaboration within a local HRD network.

Timing: Last two sessions in Namangan: July 2004, August 2004.
 Samarkand course: September, October, December 2004 and January 2005
 Karshi Course: March, April, May and June 2005

1. Training Needs Assessment in Samarkand and Karshi

The Freedom House staff based in Tashkent and Namangan will conduct a training needs assessment at the start-up of the Samarkand Resource Center. Later in the fall, FH staff will conduct a similar assessment in Karshi. The training curriculum will be based on this assessment and complement Freedom House's prior experience in delivering training and technical assistance to human rights activists in Tashkent and Namangan.

Timing: Samarkand - July 2004
 Karshi - October 2004

2. In-House Development of Curriculum and Trainers

Freedom House will further enhance the skills and training capacity of its experienced local staff as it develops a comprehensive series of trainings that is geared appropriately to the Uzbek human rights community. The staff, including the newly hired staff in the Tashkent and Samarkand offices, will participate in the development of the training curriculum as well as designing effective training methodology. The Tashkent and Namangan staff will conduct most of the training sessions in Samarkand and Karshi. Upon completion of the training program, the Freedom House trainers will conduct a detailed analysis and critique of the training.

Each training workshop will target 25 HRDs in a four-day workshop, conducted by a lead trainer and the Senior Program Officer, assisted by the FH Program Officers. The FH staff will evaluate the training workshops as well as the performance of the trainers

immediately following each session. The in-house evaluation will also include refining the plan for follow-up technical assistance to the trainees based on the workshop assessment. The in-house trainers will then conduct weekly meetings with the participants to discuss and reinforce the skills and information learned in the session. Trainers will also follow-up and work with participants on their practical application exercises (see below, Session I).

3. In-house Training for Samarkand Resource Center Staff

Freedom House will provide in-house training for the Samarkand Resource Center staff. After completing the trainings, the staff is expected to conduct trainings on similar topics for HRDs in the region.

Session I: Internet Research Skills

Session II: Protection Strategy

Session III: Basic Training on Human Rights and the Legal System of Uzbekistan

Session IV: Basic Communication, Coalition Building and Networking

Session V: Basic HR Reporting and Monitoring

Timing:

September - October 2004

4. Samarkand and Karshi Training Course “Defending Human Rights – A Practical Application”

Target Groups: Freedom House in-house trainers and approximately 20-25 professional human rights activists from Samarkand and the surrounding region will participate in the training. Similar principles of selection of participants will apply in Karshi. Freedom House has created an application form, which will be distributed and made available at the Tashkent, Namangan, and Samarkand Resource Centers as well as to partner organizations in Karshi. Freedom House will specifically seek individuals who have been active in the focus area of the training or who are interested in expanding their organization’s work in the area.

In conducting these training series, Freedom House will continue cooperating with ABA/CEELI as its partner in the RIGHTS Consortium. Freedom House will ask ABA/CEELI to provide qualified trainers to conduct the session on strategies and skills for legal defence. The training will be designed jointly by Freedom House professional staff and ABA/CEELI experts. Using the same principle of cooperation, Freedom House will partner with Internews and Counterpart in designing and delivering training on mass media and NGO development.

Content:

Session 1: Human Rights and Monitoring Methodologies

Session one of the training course will provide a substantive overview of human rights concepts and foundations before covering different methodologies for monitoring and documenting human rights violations. This training first seeks to impart a comprehensive understanding of the foundations of human rights, both internationally and locally to ensure that each participant has a firm foundation on which to build their skills. After establishing this foundation, the training will cover programmatic development of the HRDs in the field of monitoring and documentation. Specifically, the training will cover the following topics:

- A) Distinguishing objective human rights work from political opposition. Identifying and understanding the “target groups” of HR violations: i.e., ethnic and religious minorities, women, children, refugees, etc.;
- B) Understanding the conceptual and political foundations of human rights, using examples from Uzbek and international law;
- C) Human Rights Monitoring: How? Why? When? Where? Developing a form-template for monitoring to ensure that all relevant information and details are present;
- D) Fact-finding: Interviewing techniques, fact verification (including sources and their relative value), and collecting, sharing and disseminating information; and
- E) Human Rights documentation: Why? How? When? Collecting evidence. Oral & written testimonies, site inspections, photography, audio recordings. This portion of the training will incorporate documentation software.

Using documentation software as a base, participants will be required to create their own forms for monitoring, documenting and reporting. By formulating their methodologies for collecting information, the participants will have a sense of ownership of the procedures and deepen their understanding of monitoring and documentation. After the weeklong training, part of their assignment will be to use the forms, conducting at least 10 interviews, and then report back on their utility, what type of information they collected, needed modifications, and lessons learned. Participants will be put into teams for the purpose of sharing experiences and observing each other’s work. This will also serve to increase coordination. Freedom House’s in-house trainers will meet with each team to follow-up on the training assignments and monitor progress. This format of exercises and follow-up will be utilized throughout the training series.

Session 2: Data Analysis, Reporting and Advocacy

Session two will follow up on the training techniques developed in session one and will teach the participants methods for analyzing the data that they have collected, determining content for purposes of reporting, and developing strategies and skills for advocacy. The training session will specifically cover the following topics:

- F) Human Rights Violations – data analysis;
- G) Human Rights Reporting: audience, content, presentation;
- H) Developing a report-plan to ensure that all relevant information and details are present and confirmed (MARTUS);
- I) Using the report for advocacy. Disseminating the report;
- J) Strategies for advocacy at local levels. Participants will be asked to share success stories of local level advocacy and then develop proposals;
- K) Building alliances within the human rights community, ombudsman, and the public;
- L) Informing local authorities and asking for change;
- M) Disseminating reports and advocating at the international level; and
- N) Building confidence and protection through local and regional stories of success.

Session 3 Strategies and Skills for Legal Defence
 (Advocating and Protecting Human Rights through the Courts)
 In collaboration with ABA-CEELI.

During the assessment, Freedom House learned that the knowledge and skills to defend the rights of those who have entered the justice system is significantly lacking, both among lawyers and non-lawyer HRDs. In session three, participants will be trained on their legal rights within the justice system under both Uzbek and international law, in the following framework:

- O) Judiciary Processes and the Legal Sector: protecting and defending human rights and
- P) International fora for advocacy.

The session will cover all legal protections, including procedures available within the justice system. The trainings will also develop the skills that are necessary to raise these issues in court.

In addition, participants will learn strategies for advocating human rights cases and trials outside of court, including skills for demanding that advocates, prosecutors and judges do their jobs and apply the rule of law. Finally, this training will cover extensively the possibility and the procedures for raising complaints in international fora.

Session 4: Mass Media and NGO Development
 In collaboration with Internews and Counterpart Consortium

Mass media is an important and powerful vehicle for disseminating information and advocating human rights protection. The first part of session four will introduce HRDs to local and international mass media agencies and their various programs in Uzbekistan and will detail methods and opportunities for collaboration, for publicizing information, and for hosting press conferences. The training will cover the following topics:

- P) The Press and Information Media: Formulating a press release, interviews, press conference, and using the media for advocacy and
- Q) Confirmation, collecting, sharing and disseminating information.

The second part of session four will address the area of NGO formation and strategy development and highlight the processes and the importance for coordination and cooperation among NGOs. This training will also discuss the development of protection strategies among the various NGOs.

- R) NGOs: The importance of a mandate, coordination and collaboration.
- S) NGO management, fundraising & programming to support strategies.

Timing Samarkand:

1 st Session	September 2004
2 nd Session	October 2004
3 rd Session	November 2004
4 th Session	December 2004

Timing Karshi:

1 st Session	March 2005
2 nd Session	April 2005
3 rd Session	May 2005
4 th Session	June 2005

**5. Fergana Valley: Training Course
“Defending Human Rights – A Practical Application”– Sessions 3 & 4**

The final sessions of the Fergana Valley training course remain to be completed. The session will involve previous participants in the Fergana Valley program and will address issues of Data Analysis, Reporting and Advocacy and Mass Media and NGO Development.

<u>Timing:</u>	3 rd Session	July 2004
	4 th Session	August 2004

6. Organizational Capacity Development for Human Rights Defenders

During the second year of the project, Freedom House implemented a successful four-part course designed to develop organizational capacities for human rights defenders. The training targeted the younger generation of HRDs and was designed to develop communication and negotiation skills, advocacy and organizational management skills, HRDs’ abilities to develop strategies and carry out public campaigns, work in a team and build coalitions. The first group of 25 HRDs will graduate in July and will receive their diplomas. Part of the course was also conducted in Namangan for HRDs from the

Ferghana Valley. Building on the success of this course, Freedom House will conduct two more sessions in Namangan and will repeat the entire course in Samarkand in the spring of 2004.

Training Sessions:

1. Team Building and coalition building for human rights defenders;
2. Communication: intra-organizational, among HR organizations, with the public and the media, and with government agencies;
3. Outreach and mobilization: Public campaigns and advocacy; and
4. Organizational management.

Team Building and coalition building for human rights defenders: The main goal of the team building session is to establish a mechanism of interaction between 25 representatives of different groups and individual HRDs that can become a trust relationship for future cooperation and coalitions. The training will include presentations and interactive sessions to allow for more active discourse between participants and trainers.

Communication Training: The purpose of the communication training is to transform Soviet-style communication techniques, introducing the possibility for assertive and informative advocacy and lobbying by HRDs. A secondary goal of the training is to build a network of young HRDs, who are free from the organizational and personal politics that mar the community of older HRDs and their leaders.

HRDs in Uzbekistan lack the strong and dynamic communication skills and confidence necessary to defend human rights effectively. A communication training for HRDs focusing on confidence building, quick and effective delivery of analysis, presentation of concrete facts and coherent actions will dramatically impact the effectiveness of HRDs in their advocacy work.

Outreach and mobilization: Public campaigns and advocacy: The training will be designed to develop the skills necessary for HRDs to identify, attract, and take part in common activities with other human rights activists and groups throughout the country. Presently, human rights groups are more active in the bigger cities and they have poor connections with their counterparts in the regions. By developing skills to reach out to their colleagues in the countryside, the established human rights organizations will grow and gain greater support. This will build the necessary base for future coordinated nationwide activities such as advocacy campaigns, sharing and dissemination of information, and public campaigns.

Organizational management: This session is designed to prepare human rights defenders to manage their organizations in a professional manner, design strategic plans, prioritize tasks, distribute workloads, delegate responsibilities, and develop financial projections.

Freedom House will select mainly young HRDs. The older generation of HRDs and leaders of human rights organizations have already participated in advocacy and

communication trainings sponsored by international organizations and seem set in Soviet methods. During FH's previous human rights trainings, younger HRDs proved to be more creative and receptive to change.

Training in Namangan: September 2004
Training in Samarkand (4 parts): February, April, May and June 2005

7. Freedom House RIGHTS Program Training Seminar

Freedom House will bring together its human rights defender program staff from worldwide locations for a strategic retreat in Turkey. The purpose of the retreat is threefold. First, the staff will reflect on the purpose, strategies, design, implementation, and results of Freedom House work in support of human rights defenders. Second, the worldwide staff will compile and share training manuals, methodologies, strategies, resources, and experts in order to expand resources and working knowledge of human rights. Finally, the staff will identify the impact of their work and the lessons learned from programming thus far in order to determine the future direction of human rights programs.

Timing: September 2004

C. Grant Program/Sustainability

Freedom House will continue to make small grants available to support human rights defenders in Uzbekistan. Through the Small Grants Program, Freedom House hopes to increase the impact of training and assistance provided to human rights defenders; promote sustainability, professionalism, and an enabling environment for defenders; and support local initiatives in the human rights sector. The projects may be run on a national basis, or they may focus on a specific city or region.

Freedom House released a request for proposals in a few rounds with clear eligibility criteria and received over 110 applications the first round and 86 the second round from different human rights groups and individual HRDs. Based on the enormous interest of the local human rights community, the growing need for support following capacity building, and the quality of the received projects, Freedom House will continue to increase grant support for human rights activities and will distribute the remaining funds in the fall of 2004. Grants will be awarded on a competitive basis for innovative human rights projects. The number of awarded grants will depend on the requested amount of money for the winning projects. Each grant will not exceed \$5,000. The grants will be managed and monitored through the Freedom House Human Rights Support Office in Tashkent. Programmatic and management oversight will be provided by the Senior Program Officer and the Operations Manager with the contribution of the Resource Centers Manager.

Freedom House will target the following priority areas: public campaigns on human rights issues; teambuilding within the human rights community; public outreach and

communication of human rights information beyond the human rights defenders community; and human rights workshops and training. Freedom House will also clarify minimum financial requirements for non-registered human rights organizations. During the past year, FH Tashkent developed a Grant Kit and new reporting templates, which are being used by FH and grantees.

Timing:

October – November 2004

D. Addressing Contextual Constraints

1. Legal Advice and Representation

Emergency Fund for Legal Defence

Freedom House, with the support of the International League of Human Rights in New York, established a small fund to contract with a small staff of lawyers who work part-time out of the Tashkent Resource Center. These lawyers assist human rights defenders who are facing persecution for their activities through consultations, as well as in court, if necessary. Lawyers are available to assist HRDs in applying for registration for their organizations. Finally, the lawyers assist in developing training materials and are available to provide technical assistance to HRDs in the drafting and editing of reports that involve legal human rights issues.

2. Access to International Forum

UN Commission on Human Rights – Geneva

Each year, Freedom House hosts activists from around the world at the annual meeting of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights in Geneva. Last Spring, Freedom House included two members of the Uzbek human rights community and one FH Program Officer in its delegation. Next year, Freedom House plans to include again two HRDs from Uzbekistan.

Objectives:

- Strengthen international networks with Uzbek HRDs;
- Increase knowledge of human rights monitoring, reporting, and documenting at international standards; and
- Develop familiarity with the UN system and with agencies working on human rights protection and advocacy.

The UN meeting serves as one of the most important international venues for activists to present information on pressing human rights and rule of law issues and to develop contacts with NGOs and human rights defenders from around the world. At the 2005 annual meeting, Freedom House will host two human rights defenders from Uzbekistan within a delegation that will include human rights defenders from Central and Eastern Europe, Africa, and Latin America. The delegation will highlight human rights violations

in their countries in speeches in the plenary session, in parallel meetings, and in private meetings with UN Special Rapporteurs. Freedom House uses the forum to introduce and train HRDs on the mechanics of the UN Commission on Human Rights and international human rights laws and procedures. NGO representatives from Uzbekistan will play a central role in the panel discussions as their organizations currently are working to promote human rights in a more repressive regime.

Upon their return to Uzbekistan, the delegates will make several presentations at various roundtable discussions in different locations in the country. They will also provide interviews to the media and participate as trainers in training sessions on international human rights law.

Timing:

March 2005

New Tactics in Human Rights World Symposium

Freedom House is planning to select two human rights defenders from Uzbekistan to participate in the New Tactics in Human Rights 2004 World Symposium in Turkey. The participants will join other Freedom House delegates from programs around the world to participate in this global forum. The Symposium will include training sessions, regional and issue-based caucuses, and a keynote address by Jody Williams of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines. Uzbek HRDs will have the chance to network with colleagues from around the world and share their efforts to promote human rights.

Timing:

September 2004

OSCE Human Dimension Annual Meeting: Warsaw

Freedom House is planning on sending two Uzbek human rights defenders to the OSCE Human Dimension Annual Meeting. At the meeting, Uzbek activists will deliver a paper on the state of human rights in their home country and will have a chance to share successful strategies with their colleagues.

Timing:

October 2004

3. Regional Networking and Joint Initiatives

With its growing presence in Central Asia, Freedom House continues to encourage regional collaboration between its RIGHTS programs in different Central Asian countries. In the third year of its project, Freedom House will continue regional initiatives between HRDs utilizing the resources and possibilities available to its Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan programs. Through cross-border activities in the Ferghana Valley, such as training workshops, seminars, and roundtables, Freedom House will bring together HRDs from Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. The purpose of these joint activities will be to establish closer working relationships between human rights groups in the region, to increase cooperation among them, and to foster an understanding of the

common and specific problems of the three countries. The first roundtable between HRDs from the three countries was held in the Ferghana Valley in August 2003. A second roundtable will be held in May 2005.

Timing:

May 2005

6. Study Tours to Eastern Europe

In June 2004, Freedom House will take four participants to Belgrade, to take part in a seminar organized by the Regional School of Politics. The topics will be conflict resolution, effective communication and team building.

A study tour for twelve human rights defenders from Uzbekistan will take place in the fall. It will be similar to the one organized in October 2003 in Serbia and Bosnia, where four Uzbek and four Kyrgyz participants met with human rights organizations to learn about their experiences under the authoritarian regime of Mr. Milosevic. Freedom House is considering Poland and the Czech Republic for this study tour. Exchange of experiences between Czech organizations and Uzbek HRDs could enrich the knowledge and experience of both sides. The study trip to the Czech Republic will be followed by a visit to Poland, a country where strong civic organizations were fighting against communism starting in the early 1980s. Organizations in Poland provide excellent human rights training courses, and Polish human rights NGOs are working in many countries in the former Soviet Union, including in Central Asia. Freedom House will combine the study tour with a training program delivered by the Polish Helsinki Foundation.

Timing:

June 2004, November 2004, and April 2005

IV. Monitoring and Evaluation

Throughout the final year of the project, Freedom House will monitor the implementation of its program and its impact on the human rights community in Uzbekistan. Specifically, Freedom House will receive input from the advisory groups for each of the Centers. Freedom House will also develop comment cards to allow visitors who use the Resource Centers to comment on the services they are receiving and the services that they would like to receive.

For each workshop, Freedom House trainers will develop pre- and post-workshop questionnaires and evaluation forms. Freedom House will synthesize this information and consider modifying subsequent trainings based on the comments and the objectives outlined in this workplan. As the trainings continue and the staff trainers work with the participants, Freedom House will monitor the level of skill development. Management from Washington will make regular trips to Uzbekistan to evaluate programming and project implementation.

Program Objectives and Indicators:

- 1) Increase capacities of human rights organizations in Uzbekistan.
 - a) Human rights defenders improve their monitoring and reporting skills.
 - b) Human rights organizations establish the necessary internal structures to more effectively react to human rights violations.
 - c) Increased number of human rights NGOs is officially registered.
- 2) Improve strategies and working relations among HRDs and encourage establishment of a community of human rights defenders in Uzbekistan.
 - a) Human rights organizations undertake joint actions and advocacy campaigns.
 - b) Human rights organizations develop coordinated strategies and action plans.
- 3) Develop capabilities for better communication, outreach and mobilization of human rights organizations to involve groups and activists throughout Uzbekistan.
 - a) Human rights organizations increase their base in Tashkent and the regions.
 - b) Working relations are established between human rights groups from Tashkent, Ferghana Valley and other regions.
- 4) Intensify outreach and mobilization efforts to involve a new generation of HRDs as activists in the human rights community.
 - a) Young activists develop joint initiatives and seek cooperation with each other.
 - b) Young activists are elected in the human rights organizations' executive bodies.
 - c) Association of young human rights defenders in Uzbekistan is established.
- 5) Stimulate regional cooperation between HRDs in Central Asia and Eastern Europe
 - a) Human rights defenders throughout the region establish regular communication and exchange of information.
 - b) Central Asian human rights groups learn from experiences and establish partnerships with HR organizations in Eastern Europe.

UZBEKISTAN HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER SUPPORT PROJECT
A Project of Freedom House

**Funded by the U.S. State Department's Bureau for Democracy, Human Rights and
Labor and the United States Agency for International Development**

Annual Timeline

July 2004 to June 13, 2005

July 2004:

- Hiring local staff and opening an office in Samarkand
- Needs Assessment in Samarkand
- A Practical Application: Four month training course of FH in Namangan for HRDs in Ferghana Valley (3 session: Legal Strategies and Skills)
- 3rd round of small grants
- Late June 2004- July 2004: Study tour to Belgrade
- Namangan staff training

August 2004:

- In-house development of staff in Samarkand
- 2nd part of Communication Training in Namangan
- A Practical Application: Four month training course of FH in Namangan for HRDs in Ferghana Valley (4 session: NGOs and Mass Media)
- Namangan staff training

September 2004:

- RIGHTS program meeting in Turkey
- New Tactics in Human Rights International Symposium
- Tashkent roundtable
- Award of small grants
- Training for Samarkand staff
- Organizational Capacity Development for Human Rights Defenders in Namangan
- A Practical Application: Four month training course of FH in Samarkand for HRDs (1st session: Human Rights and Monitoring Methodologies)

October 2004:

- OSCE Human Dimension Meeting in Warsaw
- Roundtable in Namangan

- Training for Samarkand staff
- A Practical Application: Four month training course of FH in Samarkand for HRDs (2nd session: Data Analysis, Reporting, and Advocacy)
- Needs Assessment in Karshi

November 2004:

- Study tour: Uzbek and Kyrgyz participants
- Tashkent: Training of Trainers- session 1
- Communication training in Samarkand, part 1
- A Practical Application: Four month training course of FH in Samarkand for HRDs (3 session: Legal Strategies and Skills)

December 2004:

- A Practical Application: Four month training course of FH in Samarkand for HRDs (4 session: NGOs and Mass Media)

January 2005:

- Tashkent roundtable

February 2005:

- Tashkent: Training of Trainers- session 2
- Namangan: Training of Trainers – session 1
- Communication training in Samarkand, part 2
- Organizational Capacity Development for Human Rights Defenders in Samarkand, part 1

March 2005:

- U.N. Human Rights Commission
- Tashkent roundtable
- A Practical Application: Four month training course of FH in Karshi for HRDs (1st session: Human Rights and Monitoring Methodologies)

April 2005:

- Study Tour to Poland (only Uzbeks)
- Namangan: Training of Trainers – session 2
- Organizational Capacity Development for Human Rights Defenders in Samarkand, part 2
- A Practical Application: Four month training course of FH in Karshi for HRDs (2nd session: Data Analysis, Reporting, and Advocacy)

May 2005:

- Tashkent roundtable
- Regional Networking Event (Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan)
- Organizational Capacity Development for Human Rights Defenders in Samarkand, part 3
- A Practical Application: Four month training course of FH in Karshi for HRDs (3 session: Legal Strategies and Skills)

June 2005:

- Program Evaluation
- Organizational Capacity Development for Human Rights Defenders in Samarkand, part 4
- A Practical Application: Four month training course of FH in Karshi for HRDs (4 session: NGOs and Mass Media)