



# Humanitarian Legal Assistance Foundation

## 2010 Accomplishment Report

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For the year 2010, the Humanitarian Legal Assistance Foundation continued to work for the realization of its Vision, Mission and Goal by continuing to implement its three Major Programs started in July 2007 namely, Legal Assistance Program, Empowerment Program and Advocacy Program.

### STAFF

In 2010, HLAF had four (5) regular employees and four (4) project employees; three (3) lawyers, three (3) legal assistants, one (1) paralegal officer, one (1) administrative officer and one (1) paralegal assistant.

### VOLUNTEERS

HLAF has numerous volunteers all throughout the year. Below is the Matrix of those who helped the foundation in 2010.

VOLUNTEERS	Number	Duration
Paralegal Volunteer	2	January-December
Summer Law Intern	1	April-June
Student Interns	2	November-December
Unang Hakbang Foundation Interns	5	January-March
Foreign Intern	1	July
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11</b>	

### PARALEGAL COORDINATORS

As products of HLAF empowerment program, as of December 31, 2010, HLAF has a total of one hundred eighty-three (183) INMATE PARALEGAL COORDINATORS.

HLAF PARALEGAL COORDINATORS	
Quezon City Jail	27
Manila City Jail	23
Mandaluyong City Jail	16
Taguig City jail	16
Makati City jail	22
Quezon City Female Dorm	10
Caloocan City Jail	27
Pasay City Jail	28

Pasig City Jail	14
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>183</b>

### IMPORTANT EVENTS IN 2010

In 2010 HLAF

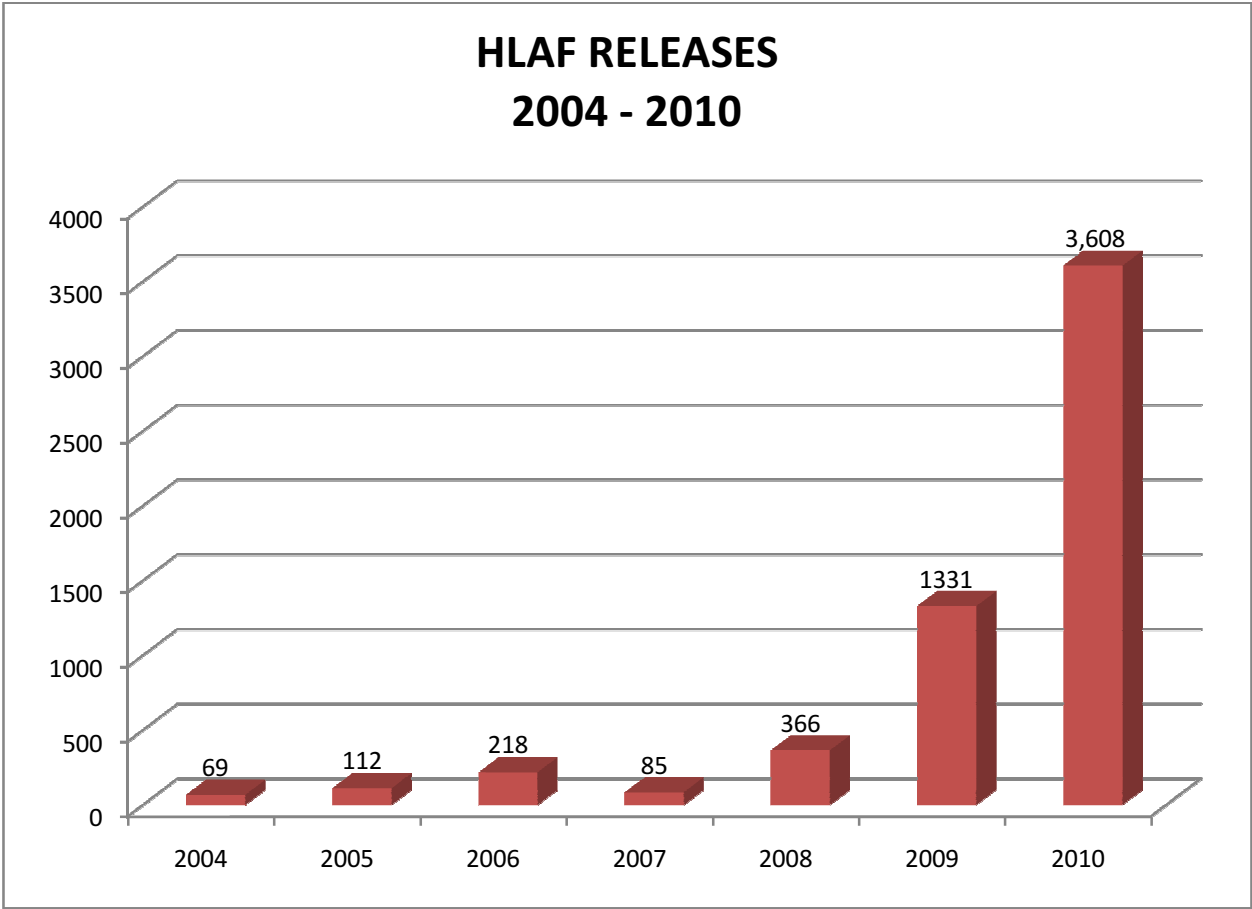
1. Commenced the implementation of the KASAMA Project supported by AusAID and NZ Embassy. In 2009, HLAF won the KASAMA Search for the Most Innovative Human Rights Project. HLAF was a beneficiary of a total of Php1.4 Million. To implement the project the foundation hired two (2) lawyers, and two (2) paralegal officers for the project.
2. Completed the Paralegal Training Seminars in Makati City Jail, which was started in 2009.
3. Completed the Training Program in the KASAMA Project Areas namely Pasig City Jail, Caloocan City Jail, Pasay City Jail and Quezon City Female Dorm.
4. Accepted a grant of Php 6 Million Pesos from MCKS Charitable Foundation for the implementation of the Center for Restorative Action Project.
5. Commenced the implementation of the three-year Center for Restorative Action Project. To implement the project, the foundation hired one (1) Center Manager and one (1) Social Worker for the project.
6. Partnered with the MCKS Caring Heart Foundation to conduct three (3) Medical Missions in Jail helping more than one thousand (1,000) inmates.
7. Conducted three staff development trainings and seminars including Gender Sensitivity training, Popular Education and Pranic Staff Development Seminar Series.
8. Tripled the number of releases of the previous year.

### LEGAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

For the year 2010, through the valuable assistance of BJMP Paralegal Officers and the Inmate Paralegal Coordinators, HLAF facilitated the release of THREE THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED EIGHT (3,608) detention prisoners. Unrecorded are the countless follow-up efforts and pieces of legal advice provided to client organizations.

RELEASES	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	JunE	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	TOTAL
Mandaluyong	3	9	8	8	4	8	3	6	9	3	10	7	78
Manila	134	121	122	122	108	107	122	165	121	145	219	159	1,645
Quezon	43	93	104	111	112	111	99	105	141	141	228	152	1,440
Taguig	8	8	8	8	10	9	3	11	11	26	15		117
Caloocan										35	15	41	91
Pasig							2	2		6	3	25	38
Pasay							1	3	9	8	6		27
QCFD										11	9	15	35
Makati					6	28	10	6	14	18	18	37	137
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>231</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>263</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>298</b>	<b>305</b>	<b>393</b>	<b>523</b>	<b>436</b>	<b>3,608</b>

Compared to the previous years, 2010 showed a significant increase in HLAF assisted releases. This is primarily due to the fact that HLAF has successfully completed its PARALEGAL COORDINATOR’S project in Makati City Jail. Added to this, the Inmate Paralegal Coordinators of Mandaluyong City Jail, Taguig City Jail and Manila City Jail, which had been organized in 2009 have been actively helping their fellow inmates.



HLAF’s methodology remains the same through the years. As a legal developmental NGO, HLAF continues to provide direct legal services to clients. HLAF’s lawyers, paralegal officers and volunteer law students provide these services by

- Providing Legal Advice to clients;
- Preparing Legal Documents and Motions to be signed by the Public Attorney;
- Following up the client’s case wherever they may be pending;
- Legal Representation in Courts
- Facilitating the immediate release of Children in Conflict with the Law from Police Station Lock-ups; and
- Providing Technical Support to clients with regard to the clients’ implementation of their own Jail Decongestion Program and the implementation of the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act.

While HLAF’s INMATE PARALEGAL COORDINATORS (who are trained through HLAF’s empowerment program) provide legal assistance to their fellow inmates by:

- Explaining to their fellow inmates simple criminal procedures
- Explaining to their fellow inmates simple facts about their cases
- Following up the cases of their fellow inmates in court
- Helping their fellow inmates preparing letters and affidavits for their case.

For 2010, HLAF expanded its clientele by accepting requests for legal assistance from various government and non-government agencies. Among HLAF’s clients are

- The Children in Conflict with the Law detained in the Center for Restorative Activities, Development and Learning Experiences (CRADLE) in Bicutan;
- The Children in Conflict with the Law detained in various Police Station Lock up in National Capital Region;

- The Inmates of Quezon City Jail (Male Dorm), Quezon City Female Dorm, Mandaluyong City Jail, Taguig City Jail and Manila City Jail, Pasig City Jail, Pasay City jail, Caloocan City Jail and Caloocan City Jail.

Government Agencies who regularly sought HLAF’s legal advice and counsel in 2010 were

- The Juvenile Justice and Welfare Council
- DSWD-NCR
- Local Social Welfare and Development of Parañaque
- Local Social Welfare and Development of Mandaluyong
- Center for Restorative Activities, Development and Learning Experiences (CRADLE)

Non Government Organizations who regularly seek HLAF’s legal advice and counsel were

- ERDA Foundation
- Pasay City Network for the Protection of Children
- CARITAS
- NGO Coalition
- Child Rights Network

### EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM

For this year, HLAF had conducted trainings to detention prisoners, members of the community and even public officers to popularize laws and procedures relevant to the Criminal Justice System.

In detention centers, HLAF conducted trainings on:

- Criminal Law
- Criminal Procedure
- Rights of the Accused
- Government Structures
- Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002
- Modes of Release

HLAF has also been invited by various communities and barangays within Metro Manila and nearby regions to conduct seminars on Child Related laws especially

- The Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act,
- The Violence Against Women and their Children Act, and
- The Child Abuse Law

HLAF has also been invited by the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Council to provide resource speakers in its trainings and seminars to popularize the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act of 2006. HLAF provided lectures in key cities all over the country to provide lectures to Police Officers, Parole and Probation officers, DILG Officers Bureau of Corrections officers and SK Members.

HLAF has also been in partnership with various jail service providers and volunteers to conduct trainings on

- Jail Situation and Condition
- Legal Issues and Challenges within the Jails
- Five Pillars of the Criminal Justice System and the Government Structure
- Jail Decongestion

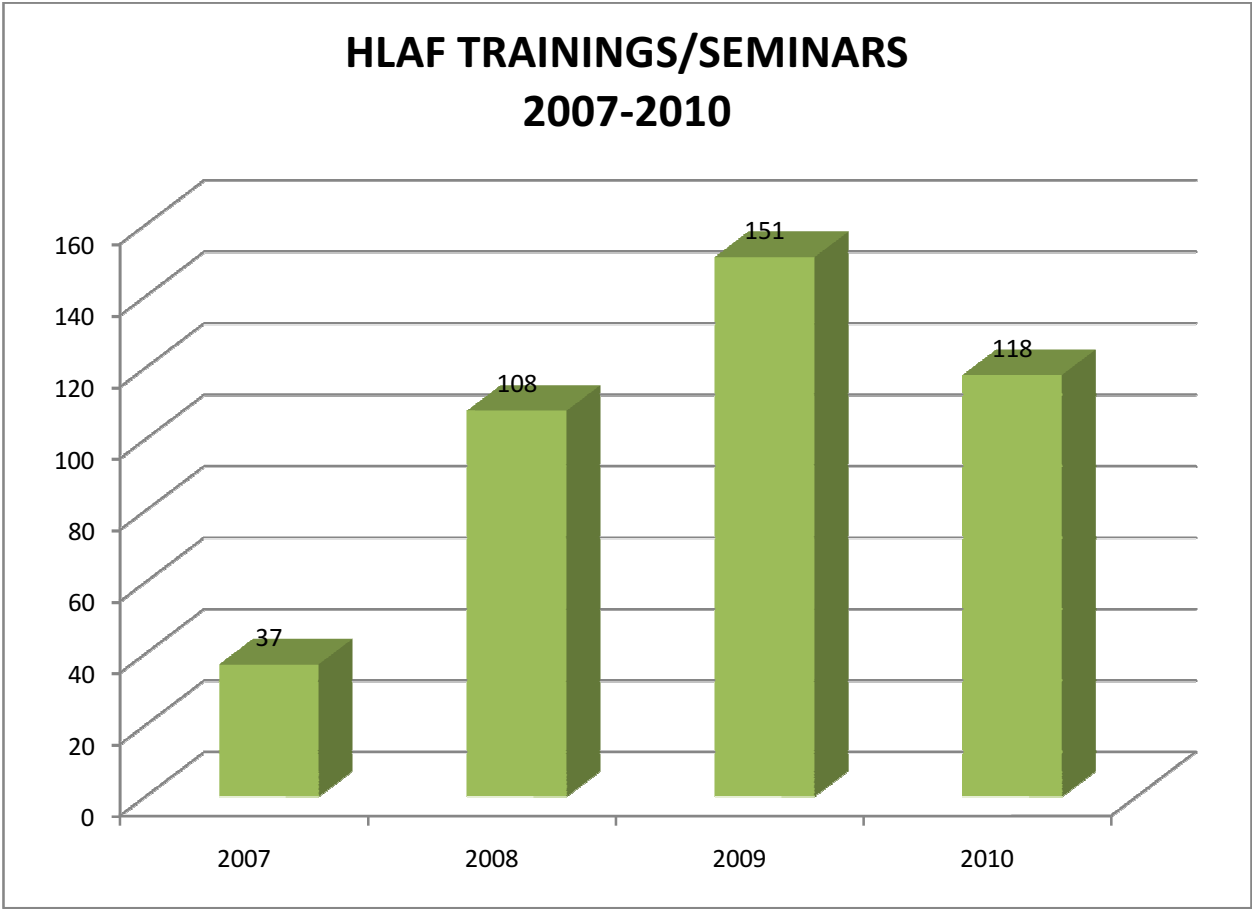
For this year, the beneficiaries of HLAF Empowerment Program are:

- The Paralegal Coordinators of Makati City Jail;
- The Paralegal Coordinators of Caloocan City Jail;
- The Paralegal Coordinators of Pasig City Jail;
- The Paralegal Coordinators of Pasay City Jail;
- The Paralegal Coordinators of Quezon City Female Dorm;
- Partner Communities of John J. Carroll Institute on Church and Social Issues in Quezon City and other Parts of the Country.
- Partner Communities of Balay Foundation
- Summer Interns of the Ateneo Human Rights Center
- CARITAS Manila
- Selected Police Officers of Selected Municipalities/Cities in Mindanao.
- Barangay Captains, BCPC Members and Social Workers of Selected Municipalities/Cities in Mindanao.
- Regional Directors, Provincial Directors and City Directors of the Department of Interior and Local Government

All in all HLAF conducted a total of one hundred thirty-eight (138) trainings and lectures in 2010broken down as follows:

2010 TRAININGS/LECTURES GIVEN	
Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act	9
Anti Torture Law	1
Popular Education	2
Laws on Children	2
Jail Decongestion	2
Jail Paralegal Trainings	
Caloocan	24
Pasig	25
Pasay	29
QCFD	23
Makati	21
TOTAL	138

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	JunE	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	TOTAL
Others		1	1	2	2	2	2		3	5			18
CaloocanCityjail			1	2	2	6	3	1	3	4	2		24
PasigCityJail			1	2	2	3	4	3	4	4	2		25
PasayCityJail			1	3	2	6	3	4	3	5	2		29
QCFD			1	2	3	5	3	1	4	4			23
MakatiCityJail	3	11	7										21
TOTAL	3	12	12	10	11	22	15	9	17	21	6	0	138



**ADVOCACY PROGRAM**

HLAF as a developmental legal organization seeks to promote policies and laws which will promote justice and which shall tilt the balance of justice to those who are marginalized.

HLAF’s advocacy work included

- Promotion of Detainee’s Rights and Inmate’s Welfare;
- The proper implementation of the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act by the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Council, the Philippine National Police and the Local Government Units.
- Promotion and popularization of Laws on Children
- Popularization of Anti-Torture Law

For this year, HLAF’s advocacy activities included

- Attending Senate Hearings and Congressional Hearings to defend the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act (RA 9344) from anti-child amendments
- Attending Senate Hearings for the promotion of Detainee’s Rights
- Attending meetings of the Philippine Action for Youth Offenders
- Juvenile Justice Network
- Appearing on NBN to explain RA 9344
- Attending Fora organized by different partner NGO’s and Agencies.

**STAFF DEVELOPMENT**

For the year 2010, HLAF organized trainings for its staff and employees. The purpose of this training is to equip the staff in doing their work and in fulfilling the foundation’s mission. This year, HLAF Staff underwent the following trainings/workshops:

- Gender Sensitivity Training
- Popular Education
- Pranic Staff Development Course

HLAF lawyers were also given enrolled for their Mandatory Continuing Legal Education.

ROMMEL ALIM ABITRIA  
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