

BUREAU OF DEMOCRACY, HUMAN RIGHTS AND LABOR

Resource Summary

(\$ in thousands)

Appropriations	FY 2012 Actual	FY 2013 CR ⁽¹⁾	FY 2014 Request	Increase/Decrease From FY2012
Positions - Enduring	140	140	140	0
Enduring Funds	23,793	24,933	26,839	3,046

(1) The FY 2013 CR is based on the annualized continuing resolution calculation for FY 2013 (P.L. 112-175).

Program Description

In the National Security Strategy, President Obama committed the United States to standing up for American principles and supporting reform and peaceful transitions to democracy. The Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor (DRL) will help implement the President's vision and the Secretary's strategic priorities to achieve successful transitions to democracy and to promote human rights around the world.

In order to achieve this mission, DRL carries out a number of essential State Operations activities, including: engaging with foreign governments and civil society activists; convening bilateral dialogues on human rights issues; producing comprehensive Congressionally-mandated reports on human rights, democracy, and religious freedom; vetting potential recipients of U.S. military training and assistance for gross human rights violations; and providing the public with critical information on U.S. Government human rights policies and activities.

Because DRL's essential functions have critical ties to broader U.S. Government priorities, DRL plays a key role in a number of international strategic dialogues. DRL principals provide policy content and participate in these dialogues and lead working groups on democracy and human rights, civil society, religion and foreign policy, and labor. DRL also leads several dialogues with key countries, including the legal experts and human rights dialogues with China, and human rights dialogues with Burma and Vietnam.

In addition to traveling for human rights-related dialogues, DRL's principals, including the Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom, the Special Advisor for International Disability Rights, the Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism, and the Special Representative for International Labor Affairs, travel to engage bilaterally, multilaterally, and with civil society to promote human rights and democracy issues. This essential travel allows DRL to expand relationships and advocate most effectively for democracy and human rights. In many cases, flights alone require significant resources.

A considerable portion of DRL's resources are allocated to manage the production of Congressionally-mandated reports. The globally referenced annual Country Reports on Human Rights Practices are consistently one of the most popular resources on the Department's website—more than 1 million people have accessed these reports. DRL also produces the International Religious Freedom Report among others, and contributes to Department of Labor reports on child labor and forced labor. The production of these reports requires significant staff time and absorbs about \$1.2 million. The reports are highly valued and cited by activists, governments, scholars, and press around the world, as well as by other U.S. Government agencies. DRL also has primary responsibility for Leahy Amendment human rights vetting of hundreds of thousands of military training and military assistance cases each year, which is requested at \$2 million for funding and staff. The Department significantly expanded the number of vetting cases of

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foreign security force individuals and units for compliance with the Leahy Amendment which prohibits assistance to units implicated in gross human rights violations. The Department is on target to process over 160,000 vetting requests annually.

DRL's reports are only one way that the Department communicates with domestic and international audiences to promote human rights and democracy. DRL seeks to be assertive in promoting democratic values and highlighting human rights concerns with domestic and international media and opinion leaders, and strategic in public diplomacy efforts to promote democracy and human rights. A critical element to amplifying the Administration's policy on human rights with foreign audiences is DRL's management of HumanRights.gov, a comprehensive source of information on the U.S. Government's human rights and democracy policies. DRL launched the site in Fiscal Year 2011 as a White House initiative. Since its launch in April 2011, HumanRights.gov has received more than 680,000 page views. In the past three months, viewership of HumanRights.gov has doubled with the introduction of more original content.

Events in the Middle East and North Africa remind the world of the challenges human rights defenders face. The U.S. Government is assisting more human rights activists and organizations through expanded rapid response funds that provide more targeted assistance to the needs of activists under threat. These activists often work with limited resources and are frequently targeted by their governments for their efforts to bring human rights and democracy into their country. New emergency response mechanisms enabled a great proportion of the recipients to continue their advocacy efforts once they received U.S. Government assistance. DRL expects a continued increase in successful efforts to enable civil society to continue their work in FY 2013, but not to the extent of FY 2012. The turmoil during the Arab Spring meant more human rights defenders were in need of emergency assistance yet they were also ultimately able to continue their work because of the improving environment for civil society in some countries in the region. However, the continuing and growing backlash against civil society in other parts of the world means there will be a likely growth in the need of rapid response funds to human rights activists and organizations. DRL's assistance programming that is essential to achieving key Administration priorities of supporting civil society and peaceful democratic transitions. Management and oversight of DRL programs require direct hire staff resources to ensure compliance with inherently governmental functions and requirements.

Performance

A key aspect of the Department's diplomatic engagement and programming to advance human rights and democracy is advocating for an end to impunity of security forces. The Department works to speak out against this practice and supports the implementation of measures that increase accountability among security forces. The Department's implementation of the Leahy Amendment, which prohibits the provision of U.S. assistance to foreign security units implicated in gross human rights violations, is a crucial aspect of this effort. The International Vetting Security Tracking database is a permanent record of the vetting process developed to comply with the Leahy laws.

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Strategic Goal 3: Expand and sustain the ranks of prosperous, stable and democratic states by promoting effective, accountable, democratic governance; respect for human rights; sustainable, broad-based economic growth; and well-being								
Strategic Priority		Rule of Law and Human Rights						
Active Performance Indicator		Number of cases investigating foreign security force units vetted through the Department's International Vetting Security Tracking (INVEST) system.						
Prior Year Results and Ratings					FY 2012		Planned Targets	
FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	Target	Result and Rating	FY 2013	FY 2014
N/A	N/A	N/A	20,000 (Baseline) New Indicator, No Rating	131,810 ▲ Above Target	135,000	164,603 ▲ Above Target	160,000	160,000
Reason for Exceeding Target		INVEST was deployed in one geographic bureau at a time, starting with EUR posts in April 2010 and ending with AF posts in February 2011. The results for FY 2012 fiscal year exceed the target, as it was difficult to predict how many cases the Department will be able to vet in a single fiscal year.						
Impact		The Department's INVEST now includes cases of foreign security units in all six regions throughout the world and permits more comprehensive investigations of gross human rights violations. Through INVEST, the Department is able to increase accountability among security forces.						
Methodology		Data are derived from the Department of State's INVEST data base that retains records of previous vetting instances which identified allegations of human rights violations and other criminal activity by individuals or security force units.						
Data Source and Quality		INVEST system, the State Department's primary mechanism for Leahy "vetting processes," is also used by the Department of Defense, and determines whether there is credible evidence prior to providing assistance. Per the Leahy law, the Department conducted vetting through cable traffic prior to adopting the INVEST system. The INVEST system, launched in March 2010, provides an accessible, transparent and permanent record of the vetting process.						

Improved civil liberties remain a key U.S. foreign policy priority. The Department has identified several countries where improvements, particularly in freedom of association and assembly appear most needed. The Department leverages key foreign assistance and diplomatic tools to support local activists in creating conditions necessary to reverse a trend that has declined globally in recent years. As part of this effort, the Department identifies and supports civil society activists and organizations whose activities promote human rights in priority countries. This indicator helps the Department assess its support for these organizations, and therefore in protecting human rights in their respective countries.

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Strategic Goal 3: Expand and sustain the ranks of prosperous, stable and democratic states by promoting effective, accountable, democratic governance; respect for human rights; sustainable, broad-based economic growth; and well-being								
Strategic Priority		Civil Society						
Active Performance Indicator		Increased civic activism in priority countries with repressive regimes, as measured by the percent of civil society activists and organizations able to sustain activities.						
Prior Year Results and Ratings					FY 2012		Planned Targets	
FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	Target	Result and Rating	FY 2013	FY 2014
N/A	N/A	N/A	17.5% (Baseline) New Indicator, No Rating	20% ▲ Above Target	18.5%	41% ▲ Above Target	25%	30%
Reason for Exceeding Target		In FY 2012, the Arab Spring turmoil increased the need for emergency assistance yet many activists continued their work after civil society space improved. The continuing and growing backlash against civil society in other parts of the world means there will still be likely growth in the need for rapid response funds, in FY 2013.						
Impact		Events in the Middle East and North Africa remind the world of the challenges human rights defenders face. In an increasingly restrictive environment, new USG response funds reach more activists under threat, versus only those in the most exigent of circumstances. These funds provide one of the few lifelines that allows embattled activists to continue their advocacy campaigns.						
Methodology		Data are derived from quarterly reports submitted for Global Human Rights Defenders Fund programs that directly support human rights activists and organizations in 14 targeted countries.						
Data Source and Quality		Global Human Rights Defender Fund program reports are submitted on a quarterly basis and carefully reviewed by evaluation specialists to determine the extent to which bureau programs are meeting intended objectives. Information in these reports includes the number of activists and civil society organizations receiving support.						

Justification of Request

Supporting democracy and human rights is central to achieving U.S. foreign policy goals. The Administration looks to DRL to be a vanguard in the Department's efforts to meet joint strategic framework objectives: to expand and sustain the ranks of democratic states; to effectively manage transitions in frontline states; to counter threats to the United States; and to advance civilian security around the world. This highly visible agenda, with significant bipartisan Congressional interest in DRL's investments and results, includes the implementation of more than 30 legislative mandates.

In FY 2014, DRL is requesting an increase of \$3 million over the FY 2012 Actual. Of this increase, \$1.6 million is necessary to ensure that DRL can continue to engage diplomatically in priority countries

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worldwide. DRL’s work requires significant engagement with international partners, multilateral organizations, and members of civil society. DRL policies are effective largely because of the relationships on the ground, and it is essential to maintaining those relationships. The request also includes increase of \$1.4 million to reflects increasing demands on DRL to execute key strategic dialogues around the world and to build the capacity of Foreign Service officers at embassies to address human rights issues on the ground in key regional areas. These dialogues are essential to U.S. efforts to promote human rights and democracy and to achieving broader foreign policy objectives, while embassy officers remain the front line for local advocacy and reporting.

Resource Summary

	Positions					Funds (\$ in thousands)		
	American			FSN	Pos Total	Bureau Managed	American Salaries	Funds Total
	CS	FS Dom	Overseas					
FY 2012 Actual	104	34	2	0	140	7,195	16,598	23,793
FY 2013 Estimate	104	34	2	0	140	8,335	16,598	24,933
FY 2014 Built-in Changes								
American COLA	0	0	0	0	0	21	169	190
Domestic Inflation	0	0	0	0	0	80	0	80
Locally Engaged Staff Wage Increases	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Locally-Engaged Staff Step Increases	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
Total Built-in Changes	0	0	0	0	0	104	169	273
FY 2014 Current Services	104	34	2	0	140	8,439	16,767	25,206
FY 2014 Program Changes								
Democracy and Human Rights Diplomatic Engagement	0	0	0	0	0	1,633	0	1,633
Total Program Changes	0	0	0	0	0	1,633	0	1,633
FY 2014 Request	104	34	2	0	140	10,072	16,767	26,839

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Staff and Funds by Domestic Organization Units

(\$ in thousands)

Bureau of Diplomacy, Human Rights, and Labor (DRL)	FY 2012			FY 2013			FY 2014			Increase/Decrease		
	Actual			CR			Request			From FY2012		
	Am	FSN	Funds	Am	FSN	Funds	Am	FSN	Funds	Am	FSN	Funds
Office for Africa	9	0	1,466	9	0	1,540	9	0	1,665	0	0	199
Office for East Asia and Pacific	8	0	1,303	8	0	1,369	8	0	1,480	0	0	177
Office for Europe	9	0	1,466	9	0	1,539	9	0	1,664	0	0	198
Office for Near East	11	0	1,792	11	0	1,883	11	0	2,033	0	0	241
Office for South Central Asia	5	0	814	5	0	855	5	0	924	0	0	110
Office for Western Hemisphere	10	0	1,629	10	0	1,712	10	0	1,850	0	0	221
Office of Global Programming	8	0	1,303	8	0	1,369	8	0	1,480	0	0	177
Office of International Labor Rights	8	0	1,303	8	0	1,369	8	0	1,480	0	0	177
Office of International Religious Freedom	17	0	2,770	17	0	2,910	17	0	3,145	0	0	375
Office of Multilateral and Global Affairs	20	0	4,572	20	0	4,739	20	0	5,013	0	0	441
Office of Policy, Planning and Public Diplomacy	8	0	1,303	8	0	1,369	8	0	1,480	0	0	177
Office of the Assistant Secretary	25	0	3,746	25	0	3,936	25	0	4,255	0	0	509
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary	2	0	326	2	0	343	2	0	370	0	0	44
Total	140	0	23,793	140	0	24,933	140	0	26,839	0	0	3,046

Funds by Object Class

(\$ in thousands)

Bureau of Diplomacy, Human Rights, and Labor (DRL)	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	Increase/Decrease
	Actual	CR	Request	From FY2012
1100 Personnel Compensation	14,577	14,619	14,755	178
1200 Personnel Benefits	4,860	4,874	4,907	47
2100 Travel & Trans of Persons	1,443	1,490	1,490	47
2300 Rents, Comm & Utilities	581	621	272	(309)
2400 Printing & Reproduction	220	211	181	(39)
2500 Other Services	1,719	2,767	4,883	3,164
2600 Supplies and Materials	180	138	138	(42)
3100 Personal Property	213	213	213	0
Total	23,793	24,933	26,839	3,046