

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

## **CABLE RE-ROUTED FOR HUMANITARIAN PURPOSE; REMOTE ISLAND TO BE CONNECTED**

San Francisco, October 6, 2012—

A Human Right has successfully lobbied infrastructure company eFive to modify the planned route of a 10,000 km long undersea cable connecting Africa to South America. The 4,200 people on the island of St. Helena, a British Overseas Territory and one of the most isolated places in the world, will now have high speed Internet access.

Previously, the route missed the island by a mere 500 km, which would have been a lost opportunity for an island with limited connectivity. In response, A Human Right with the support of advocates in St. Helena, launched the “Move This Cable, Connect St. Helena” campaign in January of 2012. The initiative was brought to the floor of British Parliament, and ultimately to the attention of the leadership at eFive.

A new plan detailed on eFive’s [website](#) confirms that the South Atlantic Express (SAEx) fiber optic cable will now pass through St. Helena.

“The cable will revolutionize opportunities for our community,” said Julian Morris, Chief Executive of Economic Development for [Enterprise St. Helena](#), which has been instrumental in bringing the project to life. “Communications are particularly important for what is one of the most remote communities on the planet, and this gives us the opportunity to plug in and enjoy the benefits of the Internet.”

Kosta Grammatis, CEO of A Human Right, underscored the importance of Move This Cable.

“This is the first time an undersea cable was rerouted solely for humanitarian benefit. We are proud that eFive has chosen to connect the disconnected. Now we can focus on our next step: engaging the British government to fund St. Helena’s cable landing infrastructure.”

A Human Right is a San Francisco-based NGO working on initiatives to ensure all people are connected to the Internet. More details on the project’s history can be found at:

<http://movethiscable.org>

<http://ahumanright.org/blog/2012/10/we-moved-a-cable>

## Cable Routes



**Planned** = Original planned route before the “Move This Cable” campaign.

**Proposed** = Current route which includes a connection to St. Helena

## Key Facts About St. Helena

Saint Helena:

- + Measures approximately 16 by 8 kilometres (10 by 5 mi)
- + Has a population of 4,255 (2008 census)
- + Is one of the most isolated places in the world; more than 2,000 kilometers (1,200 mi) from the nearest major landmass.
- + Citizens hold British Overseas Territories citizenship.
- + 25% of the work force has left the island to seek employment
- + Has a high disaster vulnerability
- + Has a weak economy and is almost entirely sustained by aid from the British Government

Contact:

**Edward Perkins**  
Communications Director  
[edward@ahumanright.org](mailto:edward@ahumanright.org)  
+44 77 678 34394