



Defending rights
to change realities

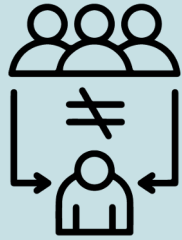
 **CEJIL**

CENTRO POR LA JUSTICIA Y EL DERECHO INTERNACIONAL
CENTER FOR JUSTICE AND INTERNATIONAL LAW
CENTRO PELA JUSTIÇA E O DIREITO INTERNACIONAL

The Issue

Unresolved Human Rights Violations

Impunity, negationism about past crimes, and corruption often obstruct the pursuit of truth, justice, and reparations.



Democratic Erosion

A growing trend of democratic backsliding undermines institutions, jeopardizing the rule of law and threatening civic space.



The Most Unequal Region

Deep-rooted inequalities persist and are fueled by discrimination, affecting women, ethnic and racial minorities, and other vulnerable groups.



A Dangerous Landscape for HRD:

Latin America remains one of the most perilous regions for human rights defenders.

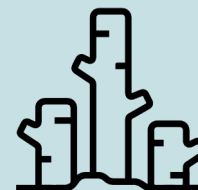


Human Rights at Risk in the Americas



Forced Migration

In response to violence, inequality, and climate change cause the displacement of vulnerable communities.



Environmental Threats:

Natural resources and territories continue to be exploited without due consideration for the protection of human rights and biodiversity.

The Transformative Impact of International Law:

Impactful local change through the power of international action



We harness the power of international law and innovative legal strategies to amplify marginalized voices, secure justice and reparations, and inspire meaningful change on the ground.

CEJIL has risen to regional challenges, championing human rights across the Americas.

WHAT WE DO IN RESPONSE



Gender Equality

We fight gender-based violence and promote women's equal participation in decision-making.



Truth, Justice and Reparations

We hold States accountable for serious human rights violations to prevent future injustices.



Defending the Defenders

We secure protections for at-risk defenders, advocate for policies to strengthen civic spaces, and provide essential training and resources.



Human Rights in Climate Action

We advocate for environmental defenders and Indigenous communities, promoting protection and interdisciplinary climate solutions through a human rights lens.



Democratic Institutions

We address democratic crises, promoting accountable institutions, free expression, and the rule of law to protect human rights.

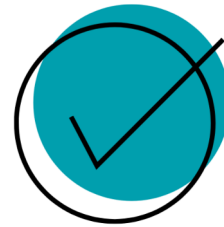


Mobilize Collective Power

We unite a diverse community of stakeholders, leveraging their collective strength to drive meaningful change.

HOW DO WE DO IT?

Strategic litigation of landmark cases that establish legal precedents and pave the way for structural reparations.



A **strong network** of allies across diverse sectors, ready to collaborate and amplify positive change.

Multifaceted advocacy that unites international and local actors to drive impactful change on the ground.

Powerful and effective communication that inspire and mobilize change.

Innovative thought leadership and knowledge sharing, fostering capacity building in the human rights field.

We Transform Legal Theory *into Real World Impact*

+200

- ▶ active international cases

+400

- ▶ partnerships with organizations

+10,000

- ▶ persons at risk shielded through protection measures

+30,000

- ▶ individuals and communities represented



PROMOTING *Gender Equality*

We are proud to represent **Jineth Bedoya Lima**, a Colombian journalist who was kidnapped, threatened, and sexually assaulted for her reporting on human rights.

Her case at the Inter-American Court of Human Rights recognized **sexual violence as a tool to silence female journalists**, highlighting the urgent need to address the threats women in public roles, especially journalism, face.

In implementing the reparations ordered by the Court, Colombia created the **"It Is Not Time to Remain Silent" Fund**, which has an annual budget of USD \$ 500,000 to support Colombian female journalists who are victims of gender-based violence.

"Fifteen years ago, a dream was born, a dream that today is a state policy. It's not time to remain silent".

Jineth Bedoya
Colombian Journalist
Presentation of the Fund *It's Not Time to Be Silent*
September 2024





The **María da Penha** case involved a Brazilian woman who survived two violent attacks by her husband.

With CEJIL's support, she brought her case to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, which issued a series of recommendations for reparations to María da Penha and advised the state to adopt measures against gender-based violence. This landmark case led to the Maria da Penha Law and inspired the **Belem do Pará Convention**, the only treaty on violence against women.

Since 2016, the María da Penha Law has

protected

+3.3 M

▶ women

leading to

+331,300

▶ Prosecutions

“The Maria da Penha law is one of the most powerful laws on gender-based violence in the world”.

The Committee on the Elimination
of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)

Defending *the Defenders*


CEJIL played a key role in holding Mexico accountable for **Digna Ochoa's** assassination, leading to reforms to protect human rights defenders.

In 2024, the Inter-American Court ruled in favor of **CAJAR**, holding Colombia accountable for 30 years of illegal surveillance of human rights defenders, securing reforms to Colombia's surveillance practices.

We secured the release of eight arbitrarily detained **Guapinol environmental defenders** in Honduras, a major victory for environmental justice and human rights.

After 40 years of impunity for **Gabriel Sales Pimenta's** assassination, we took the case to the Inter-American Court, prompting institutional reforms to address violence against human rights defenders in Brazil.





"We receive this decision of the Court with great satisfaction. We believe it is a step towards the dignification of CAJAR members and their families. There have been decades of persecution, and this sentence is important for reparations".

Jomary Ortegaón

Vice President of CAJAR

Defending Defenders *with Effective Public Policies*

Threats against human rights defenders often signal imminent danger but are rarely properly investigated, leaving defenders, their families, and communities vulnerable.

In response, we gathered experts and over 30 organizations to create an International Protocol for Effectively Investigating Threats against Human Rights Defenders.

backed by
22

▶ nationally, regionally, and internationally recognized human rights organizations

along with
34

▶ experts in international and criminal law

including
18

▶ current and former mandate holders from the UN and Inter-American Human Rights System

Berta Cáceres was a Honduran Indigenous leader and environmental activist, who was murdered after numerous uninvestigated threats. CEJIL represents her family in international proceedings.

The “Esperanza Protocol” is named after Berta Cáceres' hometown.

Human Rights in Climate Action *Defending the Planet's Protectors*

We advocate for environmental defenders and Indigenous communities, amplifying their voices and ensuring their protection. We promote interdisciplinary solutions that enhance climate adaptation, mitigation, and reparative efforts through a human rights lens.

Our work helped protect the territories of indigenous peoples like the **Sarayaku in Ecuador, Yakye Axa in Paraguay, Miskito in Nicaragua and Honduras, and Yanomami in Venezuela.**



We played a key role in Chile and Colombia's submission of an **Advisory Opinion on the climate emergency to the Inter-American Court** and launched human rights-based initiatives to address short-lived climate pollutants like methane.



Truth, Justice and Reparations: *Standing up Against Giants*

Our work has led to the removal or blockage of amnesty laws in Peru, Guatemala, Uruguay, Brazil, and El Salvador, the prosecution of individuals for crimes against humanity, and the creation of numerous memorial sites.

CANTUTA
NO OLVIDA

Protecting Democratic Institutions

Judicial Independence and Freedom of Expression

We combat the misuse of the justice system to prevent the criminalization of defenders and protect judicial independence.

We have secured measures for:

+27 ▶ judges and prosecutors in Guatemala and Peru.

We safeguard freedom of expression as a cornerstone of democracy, defending journalists like:

- ▶ Carmen Aristegui in Mexico.
- ▶ Supporting digital media like El Faro in El Salvador.
- ▶ Promoting community radios like Radio Estrella del Mar in Chile.
- ▶ We continue protecting the right to peaceful protest across the continent.

Strong *International Institutions*



Our work seeks to strengthen international human rights protection systems to make them more accessible and effective in protecting and promoting human rights.

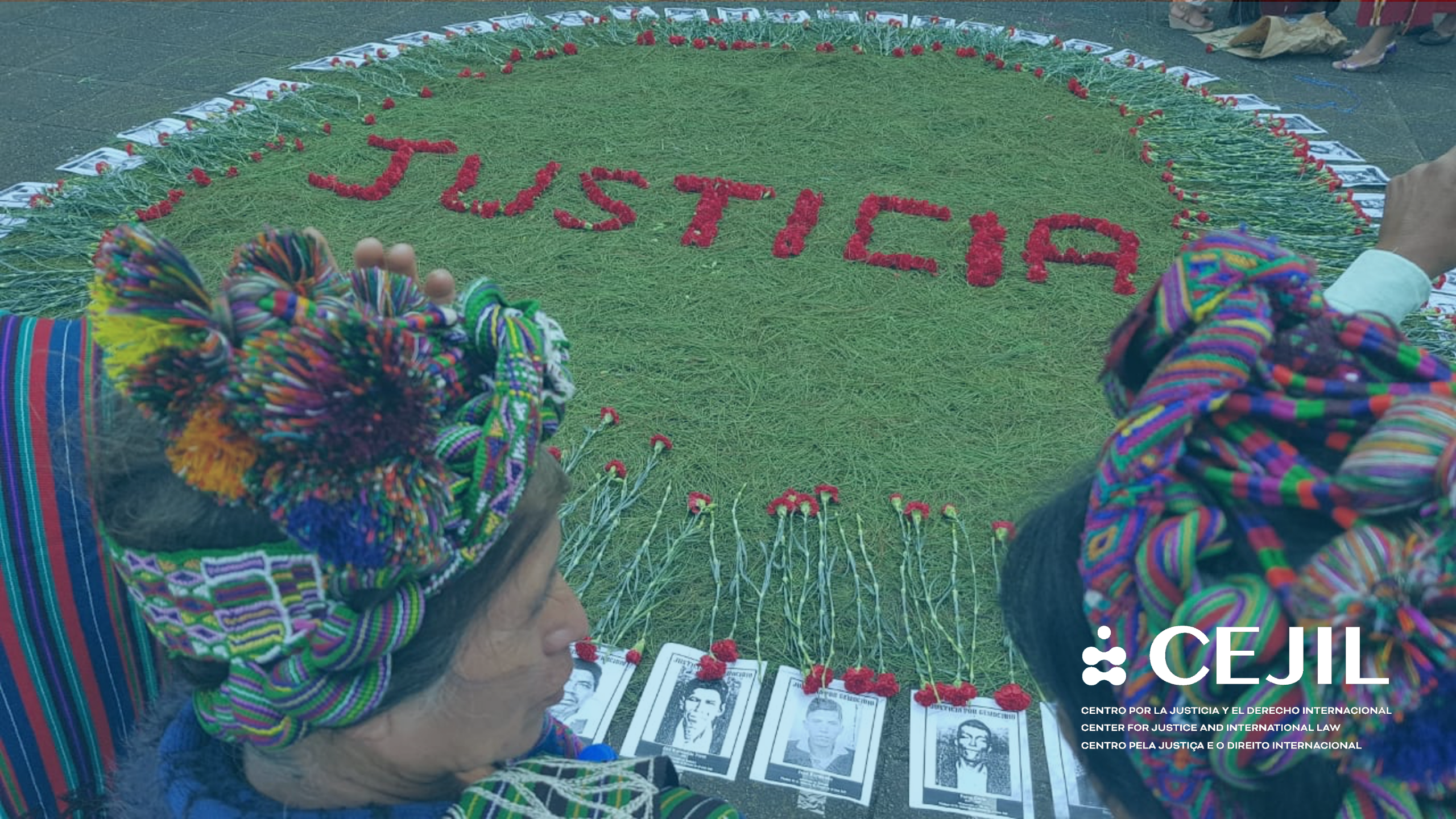
The GQUAL campaign, a CEJIL-supported initiative, focuses on achieving gender parity in international justice. Since its launch in 2015, GQUAL has increased women's representation from:

32.5% → 44%

▶ across 102 international institutions.

We focus on empowering others to access international spaces. →

In 2023/2024, we strengthened over 50 organizations and equipped 120+ activists, including children and youth, with the tools to advocate for their rights in global forums.



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