



Biennial Report
2012 / 2013

CEJIL 
Defending
RIGHTS *to change*
REALITIES



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RIGHTS *to change*
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Center for Justice and International Law, CEJIL
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Letter from the ED

Dear colleagues and friends,

During the period covered by this report, a critical question was posed to policy makers, activists and victims: what type of regional human rights protection mechanism, if any, is necessary in the changing political and social landscape of the Americas?

This report partially answers that question by showing some of the outstanding needs of our region and the ability of the Inter-American System (IAS) to address them. The relevance of the system can be seen in some of the synergies, documented here, between national, regional, and international efforts aimed at changing realities by defending rights. We recognize that our regional system has been a sounding board for critical human rights debates. It has also developed legal theories informed by the beliefs of victims that have buttressed and encouraged numerous developments at the local level that have had an impact at the global level, such as the right to truth. Moreover, as many cases show, international protection continues to change unjust realities.

At CEJIL, we believe in a strong regional system that responds effectively to address the human rights challenges and potentials of the region in a synergetic, decisive, and creative way. We also support engagements that focus on the most critical issues of the hemisphere: violence, poverty, discrimination, failings of the rule of law, and threats to those who stand for human rights.

We are moved by the certainty that the impact, credibility, and effectiveness of the IAS in affecting the human rights agenda are a collective enterprise. The IAS is not built in isolation by human rights bodies, governments, or the human rights movement. The strength of regional protection lies in the legal and social interplay of key actors as well as in the support of victims, defenders, the judiciary, and many more.

For this reason, we strive for a system connected to that which is relevant to the region. We advocate for open and participatory discussions regarding the system's agenda and any reform process. We also want a system that can address and include the voice of the most underprivileged inhabitants of our region. We make efforts to

disseminate information and knowledge to engage more actors domestically and internationally.

We work to promote a process of embedding human rights and international human rights law in the legal framework of domestic institutions, because this is a critical part of guaranteeing rights. We applaud the increasing efforts of the Inter-American Commission (IA-CHR) and Court (IA Court) to ensure that the judiciary has a buy in regional protection. But, sometimes, this normative and institutional aspect of the IAS agenda is not enough to ensure the actual protection of rights of many.

International human rights law is inspired by the idea of dignity and justice for all. Therefore, we strive for a regional protection system that delivers to the victims whom it is designed to protect. It is not only a standard-setting mechanism, but an actual protection mechanism. So we call for improved procedures and practices to deliver timely justice. We see international litigation as a recourse used, not to shame a country, but to ensure that its institutions side with its citizens and help to avoid the inertia of violence and inequality that many have suffered.

Lastly, the development of the IAS is relevant to human rights protection in the world. It is from a comparative view that we also see value in creating paths, standards, and methods that can be relevant for the Americas, but also can learn from and contribute to other regions in the world. That is why we encourage exchanges and contribute to inter-regional initiatives with Africa, Europe and Asia.

In sum, we stand by international law and the international protection afforded by a decisive, constructive, synergetic, and creative regional human rights system, believing that they have the potential to help meet the striking needs of our region. The following report outlines some of the ways in which CEJIL has demonstrated its support for international law and the IAS throughout the past two years. We will continue these efforts in the coming years and invite you to stand with us for the support of human rights, international law, and the international protection granted by regional human rights systems.

Enjoy reading the report.

Warmest regards, , **Viviana Krsticevic**



About CEJIL

CEJIL's Mission:

To contribute to the full enjoyment of human rights in the Americas through the effective use of the tools of the IAS and other International Human Rights Law protection mechanisms.

CEJIL's Vision:

We strive to attain a fully democratic hemisphere, where the rights of all are respected; a hemisphere where people live freely, without fear and want, as established in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the preamble to the American Convention on Human Rights. We strive for a region with strong institutions grounded in the rule of law in order to ensure that, through an adequate legal framework, public policies and practices are in line with international human rights law. We envision a hemisphere where State protection is reinforced by a system of complementary regional protection which is prompt and effective in protecting the fundamental rights of individuals and peoples. CEJIL is a non-profit, non-governmental organization with consultative status before the Organization of American States (OAS) and the United Nations, and observer status before the African Commission of Human Rights and Peoples.

CEJIL's Objectives:

1. To contribute to reducing the inequality and exclusion that prevails in the region, in order to guarantee the right to equality and respect for human dignity.
2. To respond to grave human rights violations related to the violation of the right to life, integrity, and security, committed or tolerated by different actors, and to assist in obtaining justice.
3. To contribute to the strengthening of democracies, in particular of the rule of law and of democratic oversight bodies, justice systems, civil society, human rights defenders, and other key social actors.
4. To contribute to the increased effectiveness of the IAS, furthering, inter alia, equal access for all persons to its protection mechanisms, improvements in its operation, and the full implementation of its decisions.

CEJIL proposes to accomplish its objectives through four intervention strategies. These shared strategies place different emphasis on different countries and sub-regions, depending on the methods of change that reflect the best approach to the challenges raised by the strategic objectives.

Strategic lines of intervention

Legal defense.
Strengthening human rights defenders and key actors.
Knowledge management.
Strengthening the IAS.



Intervention in action

CEJIL utilizes strategic litigation and engages in advocacy efforts using the tools provided by the IAS and other international human rights bodies. The IAS promotes human rights in the Americas and provides access to justice and redress to victims of human rights violations when national systems fail to do so. In addition to providing individual recourse, the IAS is designed to be one of the most effective tools in the Americas in the promotion and achievement of justice through increased rights protection as well as the strengthening of democratic institutions and the rule of law.

CEJIL litigates paradigmatic cases in order to seek redress for victims, but also to address some of the broader changes necessary to prevent the recurrence of the type of violation highlighted in the case. To maximize the benefits of the IAS, CEJIL litigates emblematic cases addressing issues affecting thousands of people in a country or the region. Accompanying its work addressing structural human rights violations, CEJIL also makes efforts to strengthen key actors and institutions that are critical for the full guarantee of human rights; namely, human rights defenders, the judiciary, indigenous peoples, etc. Additionally, grounded in its close work with victims, CEJIL prioritizes efforts aimed at achieving State compliance with IAS decisions and standards.

CEJIL understands that the litigation of a case can help create necessary debate on certain issues, and in some circumstances, help address and repair the damage done to victims, their families and communities. Cases might lead to recognition of responsibility by State actors for wrongdoings, contributing to a change in public perception. Frequently, decisions and recommendations call for the harmonization of national law with international standards of human rights. The State in question is often required to revise or nullify certain legislation in order to prevent a violation from reoccurring in the future.

Some decisions can help break the cycle of impunity that, in so many countries in the region, fosters the persistence of human rights violations. The majority of decisions issued by the IAS require the States to conduct proper investigations, including trying and punishing those responsible for human rights violations.

Many of CEJIL's defense interventions (cases, hearings, amicus, etc.) are planned conscious of the various political, social and legal structures in different countries, as well as the potential for change regarding the issues raised.

In most countries the actual impact of an intervention is a byproduct of institutional and political factors. In that respect, the fluid relation, legally and politically, of international protection and domestic protection of human rights is key. Countries where there is a legal and political recognition of the authority of the IAS can yield more results than those countries that, by policy or practice, are opposed or indifferent to the IAS; and as political situations change, so does this list of countries. Generally, the buy-in of the Executive and the Judiciary are also critical to success. Both bodies are heterogeneous and porous, and sometimes have sectors that promote or take into account human rights. Key human rights actors (which vary according to country and topic, amongst other criteria) might also be critical to the success of the intervention through international law or the implementation process of a judgment. For example, in some processes it is important to involve social movements, international organizations, the military, faith groups, etc. The passage of time, as well as domestic and international agendas of the government can also determine some of the responses to international litigation or the use of other protection mechanisms.

Meeting between human rights defenders and IACHR's members, Washington, DC, 2011.
CEJIL photo library



Thus, CEJIL litigates cases, maintaining an acute and fluid analysis of the political aspects that might influence the decision makers both domestically and internationally and also develops a legal strategy built on a solid knowledge of international and Inter-American law and driven by three main forces: the need to represent and advocate for what the victims want, the development of a standard and procedures that are progressive and anchored in the realities of different countries in the region, and the assessment of those actors that will be key in the implementation process of the judgment at the local level. This formula works best in solid partnerships with local NGOs and strong relationships with victims.

Moreover, CEJIL participates in advocacy efforts aimed at safeguarding and strengthening the IAS itself, as an effective, autonomous, progressive, and transparent system is essential to guarantee the protection of human rights in the region. Part of this area of work is built on the conviction that a better system will have more credibility and will be more able to respond to the needs of people in the region. As a means of increasing the effectiveness of the IAS, CEJIL is also involved in initiatives directed at making the relationship of international and domestic protection more fluid. This involves working on the establishment of institutions or mechanisms for the implementation of judgments and promoting the harmonization of standards. It also includes contributing to building the constituencies that will be crucial for ensuring the effectiveness of domestic and international protection of human rights, for instance working with social movements, state protection agencies, academia, journalists, etc.

Most recently, from 2011 to 2013, CEJIL executed a strategy aimed at safeguarding the Inter American-Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) and strengthening the IAS in response to an effort of some OAS Member States to include proposals that could limit the autonomy and effectiveness of the IACHR and therefore diminish the role of the IAS in the region. This strategy entailed the execution of

activities at both the local and regional levels. It was built on partnerships with other organizations and key actors from throughout the region, and involved many of CEJIL's areas of work, including communications, empowering key actors, litigation, and advocacy.

In sum, CEJIL strives to improve the realities of people at the local level by defending their rights at the international level and working both locally and regionally on the implementation of the IAS's decisions. In order to accomplish this, CEJIL must also carry out efforts to promote an effective, autonomous, and transparent IAS.

CEJIL and other Civil Society Organizations members - OAS Permanent Council Meeting, Washington, DC, 2013.
CEJIL photo library





TRIGGERING lasting change

Protecting human dignity by reducing inequality and exclusion in the region.

In order to trigger broad and lasting social change in the region, greater levels of equality and respect must be stimulated. However, Latin America has the greatest inequality in the world in terms of income distribution, with the average per capita income of the richest 20% recorded as 19 times greater than that of the poorest 20%. Inequality is also manifested in the majority of the region's nations in terms of the imbalance in access to health care, access to education, maternal mortality and the representation of women in the workforce. Additionally, figures released by the Observatory on Citizen Security of the OAS (OAS) suggest that in 2011, the Americas was the most violent region in the world, with one death every four minutes. Notably, Honduras and El Salvador are the two countries with the highest rates of homicide in the world.

Thus, socio-economic complexity can lead to high levels of inequality and exclusion, which are often propagated and intensified by the hemispheric problematic of institutional violence. This violence manifests itself in a variety of ways, for example in terms of the lack of legal and political structures in place to prevent and to punish instances of violence against some of the region's more vulnerable populations, such as women, indigenous communities and LGBTI groups and individuals.

Indigenous children playing in Paraguayan Chaco region, Paraguay / CEJIL photo library





Under the spotlight...México

In Mexico, institutional and social violence committed against women is an issue of utmost national relevance. CEJIL strives to shatter the shields of impunity which guard cases of gender violence and femicide. Work on the case *Paloma Escobar v. Mexico*¹, which addresses the femicide of a 16 year old girl, has lead to significant success in the nation. In February 2012, **in compliance with the recommendations of the IACHR, the State of Chihuahua advanced in the fight against gender violence and impunity, inaugurating the Special Prosecutor Unit for Female Victims of Gender-related Crimes.** In addition to this, a public acknowledgment of responsibility was held by the State in the same month, representing an important moment for the honoring and remembering of the victim and her family.

Valentina Rosendo Cantú at
the OAS General Assembly,
2013.
CEJIL photo library

Valentina Rosendo Cantú
hands the Bogota Declaration
to the head of the OAS
Permanent Council.
CEJIL photo library

Important cornerstones were set in the fight against impunity in August and September 2012, as **the Mexican Supreme Court of Justice ruled that cases involving the violations of the human rights of civilians committed by military personnel must be tried through ordinary courts.** This is a substantive move forward, but it still remains pending for these actions to become precedents which oblige all cases of this nature to be treated by civilian and not military jurisdiction. CEJIL and Tlachinollan continue to monitor two emblematic cases of military brutality and sexual violence against women, *Inés Fernández Ortega* and *Valentina Rosendo Cantú v. Mexico*, now that they have passed to the ordinary courts.



In focus...Colombia

In November 2012, **Alba Lucia, victim of institutional violence and gender based abuse, was asked for forgiveness by the Colombian Justice Minister in the name of the State.** This public acknowledgement of responsibility was part of the terms of the friendly settlement agreement signed before the IACHR, which also ensured monetary reparations and the facilitation of her education, professional development and medical care. The State is also committed to sponsoring training seminars on women's rights for judicial officers and medical personnel. Similarly, the case *Jinneth Bedoya v. Colombia* saw important movements, and in May 2013, CEJIL joined Fundación Libertad de la Prensa (FLIP) as a petitioner in the case. Furthermore, in April 2013, CEJIL and others² co-organized the event "Justice for the victims of sexual violence in the armed conflict", drawing attention to the impunity surrounding instances of sexual violence committed against women.



Event "Justice for the victims
of sexual violence in the
armed conflict",
Bogotá, Colombia.
CEJIL photo library



Empowering former victims

During the Civil Society hearing with the OAS Permanent Council, Valentina Rosendo Cantu presented the President of the Council with the Bogota Declaration, a document defending the IAS, which at the moment of its presentation contained over 5000 signatures. Valentina is a human rights defender, former victim and IAS beneficiary, and as such, this was an extremely significant moment for her and for our common struggles.



El Salvador Maternal mortality due to lack of access to adequate health services continues to be a major concern in the protection of women's rights; however CEJIL is proud to report that an advance was seen regarding the protection of women's health and reproductive rights in El Salvador.

In April 2013, **following a petition by CEJIL and other organizations³, precautionary measures were issued in favor of 22 year old Beatriz.** Beatriz was pregnant with an anencephalic fetus (a condition rendering life outside the womb impossible), and her own physical conditions meant that full gestation posed potentially fatal risks to her health and psychological well-being. El Salvador's penal code prohibits the termination of a pregnancy under any circumstances, including those in which the woman's life is at risk. **In the face of the lack of action on the part of the State, the IA Court ordered provisional measures in May and the State intervened to perform an interruption of the pregnancy.** This is a success in terms of the protection of women, however CEJIL seeks to achieve lasting and positive change for all and will work towards structural changes in El Salvador which improve the protection of women's rights.

In context: Brazil... Following the litigation of the Maria de Penha case before the IAS, women's rights have been under the spotlight in Brazil. In 2006, the Maria da Penha Law was passed, establishing special tribunals for cases of domestic violence against women and stricter sentencing rules for offenders. The passing of the law was a triumph for the protection of women, however, as Penha herself has insisted, "the problem is not the law but in its application" and indeed, several hindrances to its effective implementation continue to exist. In particular, since the law was passed, claims have been presented against it on the grounds of it being unconstitutional. In October 2011, a hearing requested by CEJIL and others⁴ was held before the IACHR, regarding the obstacles to the effective implementation of the law. In February 2012, **the Federal Supreme Court unanimously declared all articles of the law constitutional.**



Maria da Penha Fernandes case drove the approval of the first law addressing domestic violence against women in Brazil.
CEJIL photo library



Respect for Indigenous and Collective Rights

CEJIL has helped to pioneer new paths towards justice and equality for Indigenous communities, a further group who suffer exclusion across the length and breadth of the continent. The sentence issued in July 2012 on the *Sarayaku v. Ecuador* case was hugely significant for indigenous rights in the hemisphere, both for the terms of the decision itself, and for the raised profile that it gave to the indigenous struggle. In particular, **the sentence ordered a regional precedent of prior consultation with regards to development projects which affect indigenous territories.** This provision is a potential bridge by means of which inequality can be progressively diminished, as it provides a framework for greater equality, and establishes guarantees for protection of one of the region's most excluded groups.

In July 2013, in celebration of the first anniversary of the IA Court's sentence, CEJIL attended a series of celebrations in Quito, Puyo and Sarayaku carried out by the Sarayaku community. Various different events were held, from traditional ceremonies to debates and a press conference. Furthermore, **a great triumph was enjoyed during these celebrations, as the Ecuadorian State provided monetary reparations of almost \$2 million to the Sarayaku in compliance with the IA Court's decision.**



Sarayaku Ceremony prior to IA Court hearing in 2011.
CEJIL photo library



Sarayaku Celebrations
in Quito, Ecuador.
CEJIL photo library



During the 2011 hearing
before the IA Court on the
Sarayaku v. Ecuador case.
CEJIL photo library

Honduras

The case *Buzos Misquitos v. Honduras*⁵, saw developments in 2011, as CEJIL and Confederación Unitaria de Trabajadores de Honduras (CUTH) presented a document to the International Labor Organization (ILO) denouncing the conditions in which many members of the Misquito Community carry out deep-water fishing without proper training or equipment. In March 2013, the ILO's annual report mentioned the situation of the Misquitos and recommended that the Honduran Government provide the ILO with additional information.

The work with other international mechanisms of protection has been of great importance in the case, and has both helped to develop synergy with other systems, and to provide greater visibility for the case on the international scene, which in turn places greater pressure on the Honduran government.

Misquito deep-water diver, Honduras / CEJIL photo library



The LGBTI Struggle for rights

The issue of LGBTI rights has been high on CEJIL's agenda for a number of years. The organization is working to raise awareness on the risk situation faced by this group, and to deepen dialogue surrounding actions to be taken and ways to move forward. In various hearings before the IACHR, the issue has been debated, and is being given a more prominent profile by CEJIL and other civil society groups. In February 2012, a special unit within the IACHR created to address the developing problem and risk situation faced by the LGBTI community came in to force.

Following the dramatic rise in assassinations of LGBTI persons in Honduras since the 2009 Coup, CEJIL has placed greater emphasis on this issue within the nation, and in May 2013 **produced a diagnostic document regarding hate crimes motivated by sexual orientation in Honduras, Costa Rica and Nicaragua, in conjunction with other local partners**⁶.

Pride Parade, Buenos Aires, Argentina / ©Viviana D'Amelia





The Rainbow flag is waived before the Argentine Congress / ©Viviana D'amelia

In December 2012 CEJIL and HIVOS held an event in Costa Rica on the documentation of hate crimes committed against the transsexual, transgender and transvestite communities. This event enjoyed the participation of more than 30 human rights defenders from nine of the region's nations, and took place over two days. The impact of the event was significant, as it provided a space for the sharing of experiences and discussion of forms of adequate documentation of these kinds of crimes.

(Endnotes)

- 1 Co-litigated with Justicia para Nuestras Hijas, and la Comisión Mexicana de Defensa y Promoción de los Derechos Humanos (CMDPDH).
- 2 Amnesty International, PCS, Presidencia del Congreso de la República de Colombia, Representante a la Cámara Iván Cepeda Castro, Representante a la Cámara Ángela María Robledo, Defensoría del Pueblo.
- 3 Colectiva Feminista para el Desarrollo Local de El Salvador, la Agrupación Ciudadana por la Despenalización del Aborto Terapéutico, Ético y Eugenésico de El Salvador.
- 4 Comité de América Latina y el Caribe para la Defensa de los Derechos de la Mujer (CLADEM) and Instituto Maria da Penha.
- 5 Litigated before the IACHR by CEJIL and Asociación Miskita Hondureña de Buzos Lisiados (AMHBLI).
- 6 HIVOS, Centro de Investigación y Promoción de los Derechos Humanos de Honduras (CIPRODEH), Asociación Arco Iris (Honduras), Centro Nicaragüense de Derechos Humanos (CENIDH), Centro de Investigación y Promoción para América Central de Derechos Humanos (CIPAC-COSTA RICA) y Centro para la educación y prevención del SIDA (CEPRESI).



Worker Portrait

©Ricardo Funari / BrazilPhotos.com

FIGHTING impunity

Responding to grave human rights violations and assisting in obtaining justice.

Confronting the most critical human rights risks in the region, CEJIL fights impunity and seeks to forge new paths for justice which can be walked by all. CEJIL aims not only to improve realities for the victims of cases, but for all citizens and inhabitants of the continent. As a direct result of our work, significant steps forward for truth and justice have been taken in countries that are still dealing with crimes against humanity committed in the past.

In recent years, IA Court decisions on key cases have acted as catalysts for change in the region. In the cases *El Mozote v. El Salvador*, *Araguaia v. Brazil*, *Barrios Altos v. Peru*, and *Gelman v. Uruguay*, the Court ruled that Amnesty Laws cannot be used as an impediment to the investigation of gross human rights abuses. This has allowed for the increasing momentum in the fight against impunity over the last two years.

CEJIL in Chiloé, Chile / CEJIL photo library





Brazil The Araguaia case, addressing the forced disappearance of over 70 people as part of a State operative in the 1970's, has had a powerful impact on justice within Brazil. In early 2012, in response to the international case, President Rousseff established a Truth Commission to fully investigate the crimes committed during the dictatorship. Furthermore, later in the year **the Federal Public Prosecutor's Office initiated, for the first time, the investigation of 200 cases of forced disappearance during that time.** To date, the Judiciary has accepted 6 cases, in which 5 military members and civil police officers are being tried, two of whom were involved in the Araguaia offensive.



Eldorado dos Carajás
Monument, Brazil.
CEJIL photo library

El Salvador The sentence issued in November 2012 on the case El Mozote case represented an immense leap forward on the path to justice in a nation in which impunity reigns as a result of the continued validity of the Amnesty Law.

The hearing before the IA Court took place over 30 years after the occurrence of one of the largest massacres in Latin America, and followed decades of fierce campaigns for justice both within and outside of the nation. The space opened before the IAS for the presentation of this case was extremely significant for victims, and furthermore has the potential to achieve lasting justice for large numbers of people, such as the hundreds of people who were forcibly displaced following the tragedy. In an important step in January 2012, prior to the hearing on the case, **President Mauricio Funes asked for forgiveness of the victims and their families in the name of the State during a public act.** In March 2013, **various El Salvadoran lawyers presented an appeal against the Amnesty Law on the grounds of unconstitutionality to the Supreme Court of Justice.** CEJIL has contributed an amicus brief regarding international standards on the matter to support a favorable resolution to the appeal.



Survivors of the El Mozote
Massacre, El Salvador.
CEJIL photo library



The course of justice takes a winding road

The path towards justice is not always smooth, and often takes unexpected turns. While the decisions of the Court are binding, the full implementation of their terms is not a simple process and takes time to achieve. Both great strides forward and significant setbacks can occur in the search for justice; CEJIL strives to raise awareness at every opportunity, and takes advantage of changes and difficulties to impulse positive change.

Victims of the La Cantuta Massacre, Peru / CEJIL photo library



Peru The *Barrios Altos v. Peru*¹ case evidences some of the difficulties present when seeking justice. The first sentence on the case, issued in 2001 by the IA Court, led to several of those responsible for the massacre to be sentenced and imprisoned, including former president Alberto Fujimori. However, in 2012, the Permanent Penal Chamber of the Peruvian Supreme Court passed the “Villa Stein” ruling which removed the classification of crimes against humanity from the events, thereby lessening the sentences of those responsible. In response, CEJIL and local partners² participated in a hearing before the IA Court in August 2012, following which it was established that the Villa Stein ruling was incompatible with the terms of the 2001 IA Court sentence. By September of the same year, **Peru had annulled the Villa Stein decision, and President Ollanta Humala issued a public declaration asserting the nation’s duty to comply with the terms of the IA Court’s judgment.** Similarly, in July 2013, a **Public Act of Responsibility was carried out in the presence of the family members of Kenneth Ney Anzulado**, in which the State recognized responsibility for his forced disappearance.





Uruguay Some important steps forward were taken in Uruguay as a result of the judgment in the Gelman case. In December 2013, **the Uruguayan Executive passed a resolution approving the protocol for the search, recovery and analysis of the mortal remains of the detained and disappeared during the last dictatorship, a significant step forwards in search for truth and reparation for the relatives of the disappeared.** In January 2012, financial reparations were paid to the victims of the Gelman case, in compliance with conditions of the IA Court sentence issued in 2010. In March 2012, **in the presence of both houses of the National Congress, President Mujica carried out a public acknowledgement of responsibility in the name of the Uruguayan State, recognizing the**



Juan Gelman and Macarena Gelman, his recovered granddaughter.
CEJIL photo library

perpetration of crimes against humanity during the dictatorship.

However, in January 2013, the nation took a step backwards on the path to justice as the Supreme Court voted to nullify a law which was passed in 2011 following the sentence on the Gelman case. The 2011 law invalidated some prescriptions of the existing Amnesty law, establishing that some crimes committed during the dictatorship constituted crimes against humanity and were therefore not subject to its protection.



Macarena Gelman holds a photo of Nydia Erika Bautista, victim of forced disappearance in Colombia, during an event to Defend the IAS in Bogotá, September 2012.
CEJIL photo library



Guatemala Recent developments in Guatemala provide a further example of the complex nature of justice. In March 2013, Efraín Ríos Montt, former de facto president of the nation, and Mauricio Rodríguez Sanchez, his erstwhile chief of military intelligence, began trial faced with charges of genocide against the Maya Ixil community, occurring during the nation's internal armed conflict. This is the first time that a former head of State has faced trial for these charges in a national court. Rodríguez Sanchez was absolved while Ríos Montt was sentenced for charges of genocide; however, Guatemala's Constitutional Court subsequently annulled the decision and suspended the trial. The judges who issued the initial sentence against Montt were then subjected to a period of intense stigmatization, furthermore receiving numerous threats. CEJIL requested Precautionary Measures which the IACHR granted in their favor in August. Then, on November 6, **CEJIL in partnership with co-litigants, filed a complaint before the IACHR against Guatemala for the ongoing impunity surrounding the violations committed against the Maya Ixil.**

Ixil Indigenous women
near Nebaj,
Quiché, Guatemala
©Jean Marie Simon



Mayan festival , Gumaarcaj,
Quiché, Guatemala
©Jean Marie Simon

Nebaj Festival,
Quiché, Guatemala
©Jean Marie Simon



Everyday life images in
Jocotenango, Guatemala
©Jean Marie Simon



Mobilization of key actors

In all instances, CEJIL recognizes that lasting social change and justice are not achieved overnight, and as such its work takes a long term approach. Furthermore, litigation work is always accompanied by efforts in a huge number of other endeavors, for example, through the mobilization of key actors at national and international levels. This mobilization takes several forms, such as the aforementioned high profile video campaign involving IAS beneficiaries. Ensuring that vibrant and plural voices are engaged with the work of CEJIL and the search for justice allows the organization to draw broad support when obstacles are met on the path towards change and justice.

Current dynamics of violence

Our region bears the scars of brutal civil wars and dictatorships while also facing new challenges. Although democratic transitions have now taken place and the rule of law continues to be strengthened, it is often the case that these historical dynamics coupled with new phenomena create environments with high levels of institutional violence and impunity, issues that affect large parts of the region.

Mexico In Mexico, violence is a growing institutional and social phenomenon. The use of torture and brutality by the authorities is an issue which is constantly being raised and tirelessly fought against by CEJIL. A moment of overwhelming success was enjoyed in April 2013, when **Florencio Hernández Dolores and Santiago Sánchez Silvestre were freed from prison in Mexico following more than 16 years unlawful imprisonment.** Subsequently, in November a friendly settlement was signed on the case, in which the State committed to providing integral reparations and fully investigating the events.

In terms of litigation efforts relating to issues of violence in Mexico, significant impacts were seen in cases addressing police brutality and forced disappearance, with friendly settlements signed in the cases *Gutierrez Olvera*⁴ and *Faustino Jiménez Alvarez*⁵. Furthermore, a public acknowledgment of responsibility was carried out by the State in the former case. Alongside litigation achievements before the IAS and subsequent reparation measures, CEJIL aims to achieve broader structural change in Mexico, giving impulse to reforms to the Register of Detainees to ensure its complete and comprehensive use, including the documentation of military detentions.



Brazil In Brazil, CEJIL has worked to deepen dialogue on the violent tactics often employed by the police. CEJIL held a public hearing on deaths caused by police in Brazil before the IACHR in November 2012, raising this issue and calling the State to account. Two cases, *Cosme Rosa Genoveva* and *Evandro de Oliveira e outros (Favela Nova Brasília) v. Brazil*, addressing massacres committed by police officers in Brazil's *favelas* (slums) are now being jointly reviewed before the IAS. These cases address systematic police brutality against favela inhabitants, in particular the pattern of extrajudicial executions of black youths masked as conflicts between criminals and the public forces.

As such, these cases have the potential to impact not only specific victims, but also these vulnerable groups in wider society, leading to increased police accountability for the use of excessive force and unlawful practices.

Favela Rio Carnival / ©Ricardo Funari / BrazilPhotos.com



Chile Equally, in Chile, vestiges of the dictatorship continue to manifest themselves in terms of the excessive use of military jurisdiction. CEJIL has publicly called military justice into question in the nation for its incompatibility with international human rights standards. In February 2013, the IACHR declared admissible the case *Lemún v. Chile*, regarding the impunity surrounding the killing of a Mapuche child by the Chilean military. CEJIL will continue to honor and remember this victim by striving for justice and calling for an end to impunity in this case.



Indigenous boys in Chile / CEJIL photo library





Guantanamo One of the most high profile cases handled by CEJIL, in partnership with the Center for Constitutional Rights (CCR), is *Djamel Ameziane v. United States*, and *Protection Measures for Guantanamo Detainees* (more than 170 people). Guantánamo, the infamous US prison facility located on the Cuban isle, has been under the international spotlight in recent years for its use of indefinite detention and inhuman treatment of detainees. This is the first case on Guantánamo to be admitted by the Commission, and as such, is of extreme importance. In March 2013 CEJIL participated in a hearing before the IACHR, following which the United Nations and the IACHR released a Joint Statement calling on the United States to take steps towards the closure of the facility. Later in 2013, the IACHR expanded the scope of the precautionary measures, calling on the United States to proceed to immediately close the detention facility, resettle the detainees, and guarantee due process of law to those awaiting trial. Unfortunately, in December 2013 the US announced that it has transferred Djamel Ameziane from Guantanamo to Algeria despite his well-founded fear of persecution or torture in his home country. CEJIL and the CCR will continue working on this extremely important case -and precautionary measures, since it sheds light on the actions of the US State at the Guantanamo detention facility and helps to contribute international attention and pressure to the issue.



Protest against the Guantanamo detention facility, Washington, DC, 2013.
CEJIL photo library

Venezuela In Venezuela, the institutional nature of police violence and the numerous accusations of police brutality being leveled at impoverished young men are issues which are high on CEJIL's agenda. CEJIL has procured extended provisional measures for the Barrios family, who to date have lost 10 of their members in suspicious circumstances involving members of the police. CEJIL also has held numerous hearings before the IA Court on compliance with the sentence. In October 2012, a positive sentence was issued on the case *Uzcátegui v. Venezuela*, similarly addressing police brutality, and in July 2012, the case *Hermanos Landaeta v. Venezuela* was sent by the Commission to the jurisdiction of the Court. The passing of this case to the Tribunal reflects the continued lack of internal justice on this issue and the need to keep constructing new roads towards justice.



Nestor Uzcátegui's relatives' home in Venezuela.
CEJIL photo library



Bolivia / ©Viviana D'Amelia

CEJIL and the media

In order to confront regional human rights risks, CEJIL engages in a range of different strategies which complement its litigation work. An incredibly important course of action is interaction with the press. CEJIL maintains strong relationships with journalists and social media in the majority of the region's nations, and believes firmly in the power of sharing information, struggles and successes to increase awareness and action. Over the last two years, a total of 140 Press releases were issued by CEJIL.

(Endnotes)

- 1 Asociación Pro-Derechos Humanos (APRODEH), Legal Defense Institute (IDL), Comisión Nacional de Derechos Humanos (CNDDHH), and Fundación Ecuánica Para el Desarrollo y la Paz (FEDEPAZ).
- 2 Asociación Pro-Derechos Humanos (APRODEH); Fundación Ecuánica para el Desarrollo y la Paz (FEDEPAZ); Legal Defense Institute (IDL); and the Comisión de Derechos Humanos (COMISDEH).
- 3 Association for Justice and Reconciliation, Centro para la Acción Legal en Derechos Humanos (CALDH), and Bufete Jurídico por los Derechos Humanos (BDH).
- 4 Comisión de Derechos Humanos del Distrito Federal (CDDHDF).
- 5 Acción de los Cristianos para la abolición de la Tortura (ACAT), el Centro Regional de Defensa de los Derechos Humanos "José María Morelos y Pavón, A. C.



STRENGTHENING democracies

The rule of law, democratic oversight bodies, justice systems, civil society, human rights defenders, and other key actors.

CEJIL believes that strong democracies and effective human rights protection go hand in hand. Through a combination of different activities, CEJIL works to protect those at risk by enhancing democratic systems and strengthening the rule of law. **CEJIL supported an Argentine Supreme Court of Justice initiative by participating in a series of training sessions on gender and international standards of protection of the rights of women, for both federal and provincial judges in the nation.** The objective of these sessions was to strengthen the capacities of the justice

Protest against the coup D'Etat in Honduras, during the OAS General Assembly in El Salvador, 2011 / CEJIL photo library



administration system and construct more robust avenues for the protection of rights of women. In addition to this, CEJIL and the Buenos Aires Public Prosecutor's Office jointly elaborated a document on international standards of protection on the rights of women, with the objective of providing a point of reference for Public Prosecutors when dealing with cases of gender violence.

Some cases which CEJIL litigates also serve to strengthen democratic processes, shedding light on inconsistencies and injustices and allowing for the possibility of decisions which reinforce the importance of democratic systems and the protection they offer. One of the most significant of these is the case of the four members of the Honduran judiciary dismissed following the Coup d'état of 2009. This case, which CEJIL co-litigates with Asociación de Jueces por la Democracia, is politically very important, as it fits into the pattern of the rise in human rights abuses and persecution since the Coup. **It also has the potential to have an avalanche effect in terms of the strengthening of judicial independence and consequently, the protection of democratic rights.**

La Unidad de Protección de Defensoras y Defensores de Guatemala (UDEFEUGUA), el Centro por la Justicia y el Derecho Internacional (CEJIL), la Oficina del Alto Comisionado de las Naciones Unidas para los Derechos Humanos en Guatemala (OACNUDH) y Protection International (PI)

Le invita a seguir la transmisión en vivo del Foro

Retos en la Protección de Defensoras y Defensores de Derechos Humanos en Mesoamérica

Los días 17 y 18 de mayo del presente año a través de los siguientes enlaces en internet:

<http://www.livestream.com/oacnudhguatemala> o <http://www.ustream.tv/channel/defensores-dhhs-mesoamerica>

17 de mayo 2012	
8:30 a 9:30	Palabras de bienvenida e inauguración
9:30 a 10:40	Panel: El rol de mecanismos de protección nacionales e internacionales (José de Jesús Orozco, CIDH; Javier Hernández, OACNUDH-México; y Stella Zervoudaki, Embajadora de la UE en Guatemala)
10:40 a 11:00	Preguntas y respuestas
12:00 a 12:45	Conferencia: Elementos mínimos que debe contener un Mecanismo de protección de defensoras y defensores (Enrique Eguren, PI)
12:45 a 13:00	Comentarios, preguntas y respuestas
17:00 a 17:30	Comentario a la Declaración sobre Defensoras y Defensores de Derechos Humanos, 2011 (Alberto Brunori, OACNUDH-Guatemala)
17:30 a 18:30	Presentación del Informe sobre la situación de defensores y defensoras en las Américas 2011, de la Comisión Interamericana de Derechos Humanos (José de Jesús Orozco, CIDH)
18 de mayo 2012	
9:00 a 10:00	Panel: Avances y obstáculos en el establecimiento de mecanismos nacionales de protección en Mesoamérica (Claudia Paz y Paz, Fiscal General de Guatemala; Ariel Benítez Mendizábal, Viceministro de Apoyo al Sector Justicia, Ministerio de Gobernación de Guatemala; Marcela Castañeda, Viceministra de Seguridad de Honduras y Omelinda López Reyes, Titular de la Unidad para la Promoción y Defensa de los Derechos Humanos, Secretaría de Gobernación de México)

Human Rights Defenders Seminar, Guatemala, 2012.

Empowering human rights defenders

The work of human rights defenders is a foundation stone in the construction of both democratic political systems and democratic societies. Empowering human rights defenders is a key element of CEJIL's agenda, and has tied in with much of the work relating to the Strengthening of the IAS. CEJIL has provided a number of training sessions, often in partnership with other local and regional organizations, to guide the empowerment process over the past two years.

A highlight was the human rights defenders seminar held by CEJIL and partner organizations in Guatemala in May 2013. This forum provided a space for discussion and analysis regarding the protection of human rights defenders in the region.



Human rights defenders on a press conference during the IACHR's hearings, Washington, DC, 2013
CEJIL photo library





CEJIL Seminars and workshops

In 2012-2013, CEJIL conducted and participated in training sessions on a variety of issues, including but not exclusive to the following:

- Strengthening the IAS
- Documenting Cases and effectively using the IAS
- Protection Measures
- Reforms to the IAS
- Women's Rights
(including violence against women, discrimination, and displaced women and armed conflict)
- Human Rights Challenges and Justice in Guatemala
- Violence and Hate Crimes against LGBTI groups
- Sexual Violence In Colombia
- Precautionary Measures and Migrants
- Historical Memory and Historical Debt
- Human Rights Defenders
- Human Rights and Accountability in Guatemala
- IAS Mechanisms of Human Rights Protection
- Reforms to the IAS

Putting the rights of human rights defenders on national and international agendas

As a result of a decade of campaigning on the part of CEJIL and other civil society organizations, in March 2011, the Rapporteurship on Human Rights Defenders was created within the IAS. This is a great achievement in terms of the recognition of the need to safeguard the rights of those that devote themselves to protecting the rights of others.



Meeting between human rights defenders and IACHR's members, Washington, DC, 2011.
CEJIL photo library

Protection Measures

Alongside litigation of cases, the maintenance of the protection measures offered by the IACHR and the IA Court is essential for the protection of human rights defenders, and consequently, the strengthening of democracy. Protective measures play a hugely significant role, and often their intervention can mark the difference between life and death. **Between 2012 and 2013, CEJIL maintained and established 39 precautionary measures before the IACHR, 17 provisional measures before the Court.**





Thematic Hearings held by CEJIL and its partners before the IACHR in 2012-2013:

March 2012

Situation of Human Rights Defenders and the Access to Justice in Guatemala
 State of Fundamental Freedoms and their Effect on the Protection of Human Rights in Honduras
 General Human Rights Situation in Nicaragua
 Threats to Judicial Independence in Central America
 Process of Strengthening the IAS

October 2012

Investigation into Deaths by Police in Brazil
 Process of Strengthening IAHRS
 Human Rights of Migrants and Legislative Reforms in the United States
 Human Rights Situation of Detainees at Guantánamo Naval Base, United States



Hearings before the IAHRC on Guantanamo detainment facility, Washington, DC, 2013.
 CEJIL photo library

March 2013

Human Rights and Social Protest in Peru
 Human Rights Situation of Persons Detained in the Naval Base of Guantanamo, United States
 Access to an Identity Card and Effective Judicial Resources in Nicaragua
 Right to Personal Integrity of Women and Girls in Nicaragua
 General Human Rights Situation in Mexico
 Human Rights Situation of Justice Operators in Guatemala
 General Human Rights Situation in Guatemala
 General Human Rights Situation in Honduras
 Statelessness and Human Rights in the Americas
 Situation of Human Rights of Women Deprived of Liberty in Bolivia
 General Situation of Human Rights in Venezuela

October 2013

Implementation of Precautionary Measures in Honduras
 Situation of Human Rights Defenders in Guatemala
 Reports of Excessive Use of Force by the Police in Nicaragua
 Situation of Violence against Women in the Americas
 Human Rights Situation of Refugees in the Americas



Indigenous children playing in Paraguayan Chaco region, Paraguay.
 CEJIL photo library



Democratizing Information and Promoting Freedom of Expression

Democratic processes are invariably strengthened by citizen empowerment, which in turn occurs through increased access to and availability of information, and guarantees for freedom of expression. Some cases analyze the use of sexual violence against women in relation to freedom of expression. For example, *Jinneth Bedoya v. Colombia* addresses sexual violence used as a means of repression against a journalist. Similarly, *Mariana Selvas Gómez et al v. Mexico*, also known as “Atenco”, deals with numerous instances of sexual violence and sexual torture by the authorities in response to the manifestation of citizen action. In March 2013, CEJIL and Centro PRODH participated in a hearing before the IACHR regarding Atenco, and continue to litigate before the IAS in order to achieve justice for the victims, and to establish mechanisms of protection and structural changes that ensure that repressive reactions to protests are curtailed and punished accordingly.

Chile protests
dictatorship crimes
© J.R.Ripper
BrazilPhotos.com



In Chile, the discriminatory use of the antiterrorist law against indigenous communities and as a means of repressing protest has been confronted by CEJIL.

In May 2013, a public hearing was held on the case *Norín Catrimán v. Chile*, which addresses this issue and the use of the antiterrorism law to suppress the demands of the Mapuche community for their ancestral rights. Several members of the community, including one of its leaders, Werken Víctor Manuel Ancalaf, have been imprisoned as a result of the application of the law, provoking serious consequences on a personal and familial level, as well as in having a serious and damaging impact on the life of the community.

Hearing before the IA
Court, case Ancalaf v. Chile
(Mapuche), Costa Rica, 2013.
CEJIL photo library

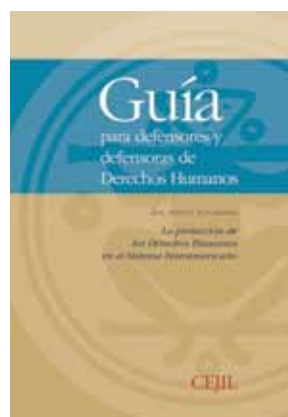




Publications for Defenders

As part of one CEJIL's strategic lines of intervention, publications are produced whose intention is to provide tools for human rights defenders throughout the hemisphere and beyond.

Some of the publications produced between 2012 and 2013 are listed below.



Guide for Human Rights Defenders: Human Rights Protection in the Inter-American System, 2nd Edition (Available in Spanish only)
In this volume, CEJIL reviews its experience as a team of specialized lawyers and human rights defenders engaged in the defense of human rights in the Americas and the effective use of IAS of human rights protection. This is an eminently practical guide focused on the promotion and protection of human rights, both through litigation and through advocacy or lobbying efforts aimed to contribute to the strengthening and promotion of the IAS.

Type of Publication: Manual and Guide



Human Rights in the Inter-American System. Compilation of instruments. 2011 Edition. (Available in Spanish and English)
This publication compiles the Declarations, Treaties, Protocols and Principles that constitute the fundamental normative body of the international human rights law in the Inter-American field. It is complemented with those texts that regulate the composition and functioning of the IACHR and Court (Statutes and Rules of procedure).

Type of Publication: Compilation of Law

Position Paper No. 6 - Proposals to Improve the Inter-American System of Human Rights: CEJIL's response to the proposal of the OAS Permanent Council (Available in Spanish and English)

Through this document, presented before the Permanent Council of the OAS, CEJIL makes public a number of observations and proposals. These were produced within the framework of the process of reflection on the IAS of Human Rights, with the sole objective of genuinely strengthening the system and thereby contributing to the effective protection and promotion of human rights in the Americas..

Type of Publication: Position Paper



Position Paper No. 7 - Proposals to Improve the Inter-American System of Human Rights: Comparative Analysis of the Practice of Precautionary Measures (Available in Spanish and English)

This document, presented during the Special Meeting of the Permanent Council of the OAS, contains an exhaustive analysis of the practices of issuing precautionary measures of different human rights bodies. This report was collaboratively produced by CEJIL and the International Human Rights Clinic at the University of California, Berkeley School of Law.

Type of Publication: Position Paper



Position Paper No. 8: Comments on the Reforms to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights' Rules of Procedure: Changes resulting from the 2011-2013 Process of Reflection (Available in Spanish only)

In this document, CEJIL publically shares its analysis regarding the IACHR's changes to its Rules of Procedure, effected as a consequence of the "Process of Reflection on the Functioning of the IACHR for the Strengthening of the IAS on Human Rights", which took place between 2011 and 2013. CEJIL intends to offer interpretative guide for the more effective protection and promotion of human rights on the Americas.

Type of Publication: Position Paper



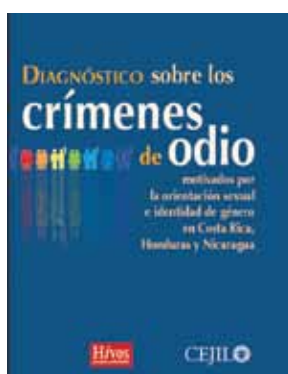


Summaries of Jurisprudence: Health and Reproductive Rights

(Available in Spanish and English)

Human rights protection bodies recognize the access to medical care, including reproductive health, as a basic right. Nonetheless, the decisions included in this volume illustrate some of the grave deficiencies in the effective enjoyment of these rights, directly affecting women's right to choose regarding maternity, access to health information, and the respect for their autonomy and privacy. This text compiles decisions and judgments that constitute more relevant jurisprudence in relation to health and reproductive rights.

Type of Publication: Compilation of Jurisprudence



Diagnostic on Hate Crimes Motivated by sexual orientation and Gender Identity in Costa Rica, Honduras and Nicaragua

(Available in Spanish only)

This document, produced in conjunction with HIVOS, provides an in depth discussion of the hate crimes as a concept and their incidence in Costa Rica, Nicaragua and Honduras. The document also analyses the response of the authorities when faced with these crimes and the socio-cultural dynamics of the nations in question.

Type of Publication: Diagnostic Document



Mother and daughter
in rural Bolivia.
©Viviana D'Amelia

(Endnotes)

- I UDEFEGUA, the Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights, and Protection International.



Cocoa beans Africa

©Lena Trinidad / BrazilPhotos.com

STRENGTH- ENING the IAS

Increasing the effectiveness and access to the IAS, and ensuring full implementation of its decisions.

Sertao Brazil drought ©Ricardo Funari / BrazilPhotos.com





An IAS for all

The IAS is a fundamental tool for the protection of human rights in the region. Indeed, CEJIL's belief in the IAS and its overwhelming importance has led to a significant increase in the efforts relating to the strategic line of intervention of strengthening the IAS. Over the past two years, a debate and reforms process was underway both within the OAS and within the IACHR itself, as a result of the efforts of some OAS Member States since 2011 to limit the autonomy and

effectiveness of the IACHR and therefore diminish the role of the IAS in the region. In response to this process and the threat posed to the IAS, CEJIL engaged in a multidisciplinary and far reaching strategy in pursuit of the defense of its capacities, entailing the execution of activities at both the local and regional levels and the use of a wide range of different actions, from advocacy to campaigning, press and communications work, and mobilization of key actors.



Meeting between OAS Permanent Council and CSOs to discuss reforms to Strengthen the IAS, Washington, DC, 2013. CEJIL photo library



Meeting of International Coalition of Organizations for Human Rights in the Americas - October 2013. CEJIL photo library



The campaign

CEJIL participated in various debates before the OAS and the IAS, including the regional forums organized by the IACHR in Mexico and Colombia, and also helped to secure spaces for civil society's participation in these events. For example, in October 2012, **CEJIL facilitated the participation of dozens of key civil society actors and victims of human rights violations from all parts of the region in a public hearing on the process for strengthening the IAS before the IACHR.** In December 2012, CEJIL helped ensure the participation of various members of civil society and other beneficiaries of the IAS in the OAS Permanent Council's meeting with civil society and users of the IAS.

CEJIL launched a trilingual international petition entitled the "Bogota Declaration", which gained over 5000 signatures including those of key regional personalities. Several meetings were held with important actors from the human rights movement and political arenas of the region, and a bilingual website dedicated to the strengthening of the IAS was established. The formal reforms process was officially completed during the OAS General Assembly in March 2013, with the emission of a resolution by the OAS.



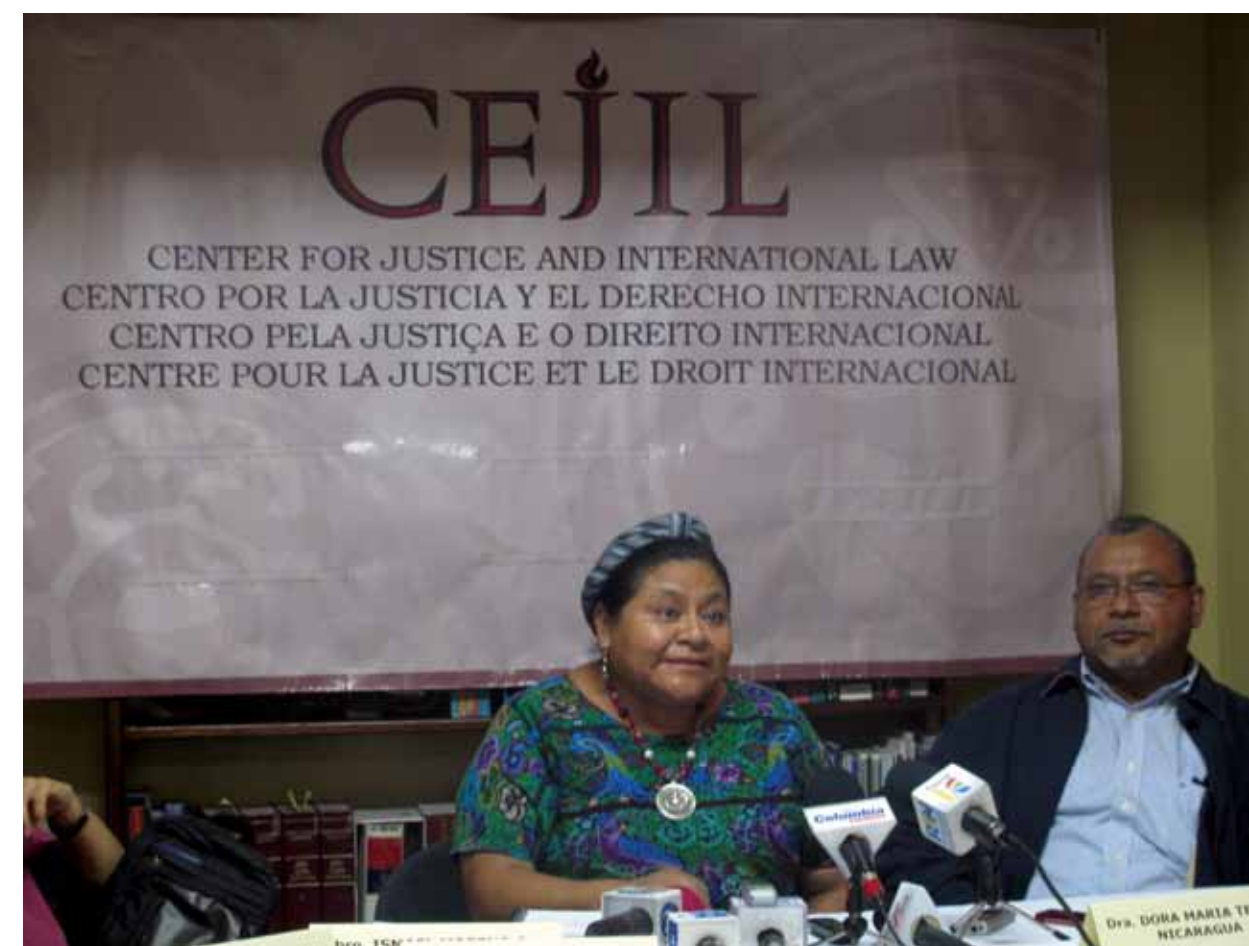
OAS General Assembly
March 2013.
CEJIL photo library

The reforms

The result of the formal reforms process was largely positive; the Commission avoided the worst case scenario of a reduction of functions and capacities by carrying out its own process of reforms to its Rules of Procedure, finalized shortly before the General Assembly. As such, unrestricted funding for the IACHR was protected, and the formal institutions of Special Rapporteurs and Precautionary Measures were defended. Furthermore, the potential reforms process of the American Convention on Human Rights and the Statutes was avoided.



Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Rigoberta Menchú and Father Ismael Moreno, Costa Rica, 2009 / CEJIL photo library





The human rights movement after the crisis

A constructive impact of the crisis and reforms process was the building of bridges between the political, artistic and social worlds of the region, and the strengthening of the human rights movement itself. **The enhanced degree of collaboration and coordination between different civil society organizations, NGO's and key actors in the movement led to the a flourishing synergy.**

Indeed, the experience has shown that in the face of crisis, the human rights movement is capable of impressive cohesion and the plurality of vibrant voices present and active in its work can join together in a unified call. **CEJIL envisions maintaining high levels of cooperation and coordination into the future, so that in the face of any future crises, the movement can stand firm and united in facing challenges and pursuing a common agenda on key issues for the protection of human rights.**

The International Coalition of Organizations for Human Rights in the Americas was instrumental in the execution of the campaign to defend the IAS. The Coalition provided a space where it was possible to reach hundreds of organizations and thousands of people, including key human rights organizations, activists and victims, in the majority of the region's nations. Not only did CEJIL work with these actors at the local level to develop and carry out in-country strategies, but at the international level, many presentations were made on behalf of the Coalition rather than on behalf of individuals or specific organizations. This gave much legitimacy to the positions of the group.





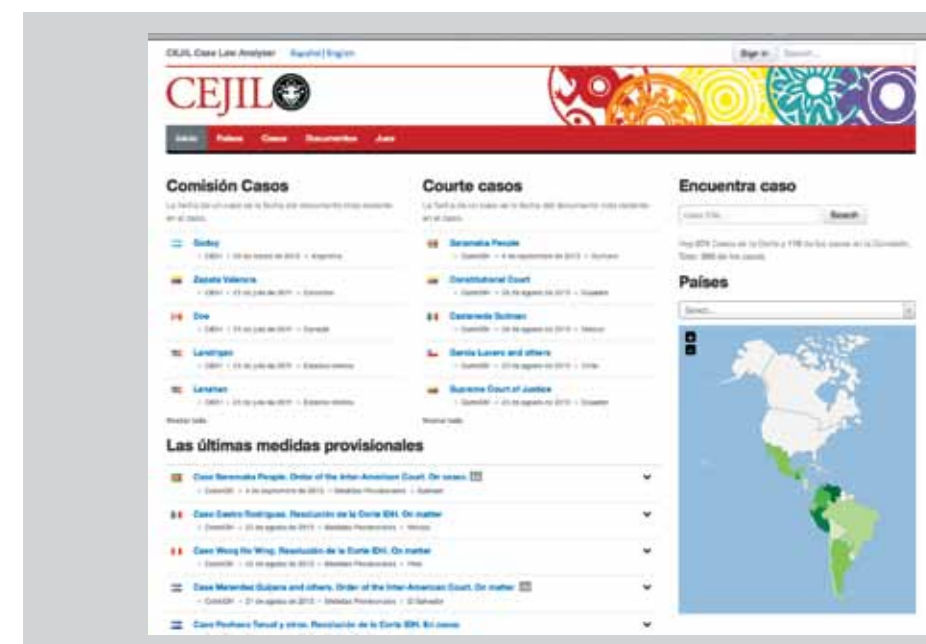
Building bridges with other systems of regional human rights protection

CEJIL believes that there are many lessons to be learnt from the experience and wisdom of those working in other regional systems of human rights protection. For a number of years, we have been working towards increasing interaction and opportunities for mutually beneficial knowledge sharing between regional protection systems. Following the crisis in the IAS, these efforts have intensified and great strides forward were taken on the road to mutual understanding.

In September 2013, a Cross-Regional Meeting was organized and held by CEJIL in Antigua, Guatemala. This two day event provided a space for key actors in the European, African, Inter-American and ASEAN Systems to share information on the reforms process being carried out in each respective system, as well as to discuss the issues such as strategic litigation, the theories and philosophies underpinning the work of each system, and the value of cross-regional interaction itself. As a result of the event, CEJIL, and key actors in other systems plan to continue fomenting this regional cooperation in a structured manner, to continue monitoring fundamental issues of common concern. Additionally, CEJIL has met with key members of the African and ASEAN Systems, and was invited to attend conferences on the human rights systems of these continents during 2012 in Indonesia, Thailand, and the Ivory Coast.

Bringing the IAS Home

The IAS is a tool not for governments, but for the citizens and peoples of the continent. As such, CEJIL believes strongly in the need to democratize and broaden access to the IAS. We have taken great strides forwards in the development of a new Case Law Analyzer (CLA), an intelligent database containing the most important decisions and recommendations of the IAS. It will be linked to the African System Case Law Analyzer, and potentially to a future CLA in the European System. The CLA is part of CEJIL's strategy to democratize access to the IAS, by systematizing and making accessible the information relating to the System and its jurisprudence. To access the CLA, please follow this link: cejil.cla.huritech.org.



Inter-American
Case Law Analyzer.

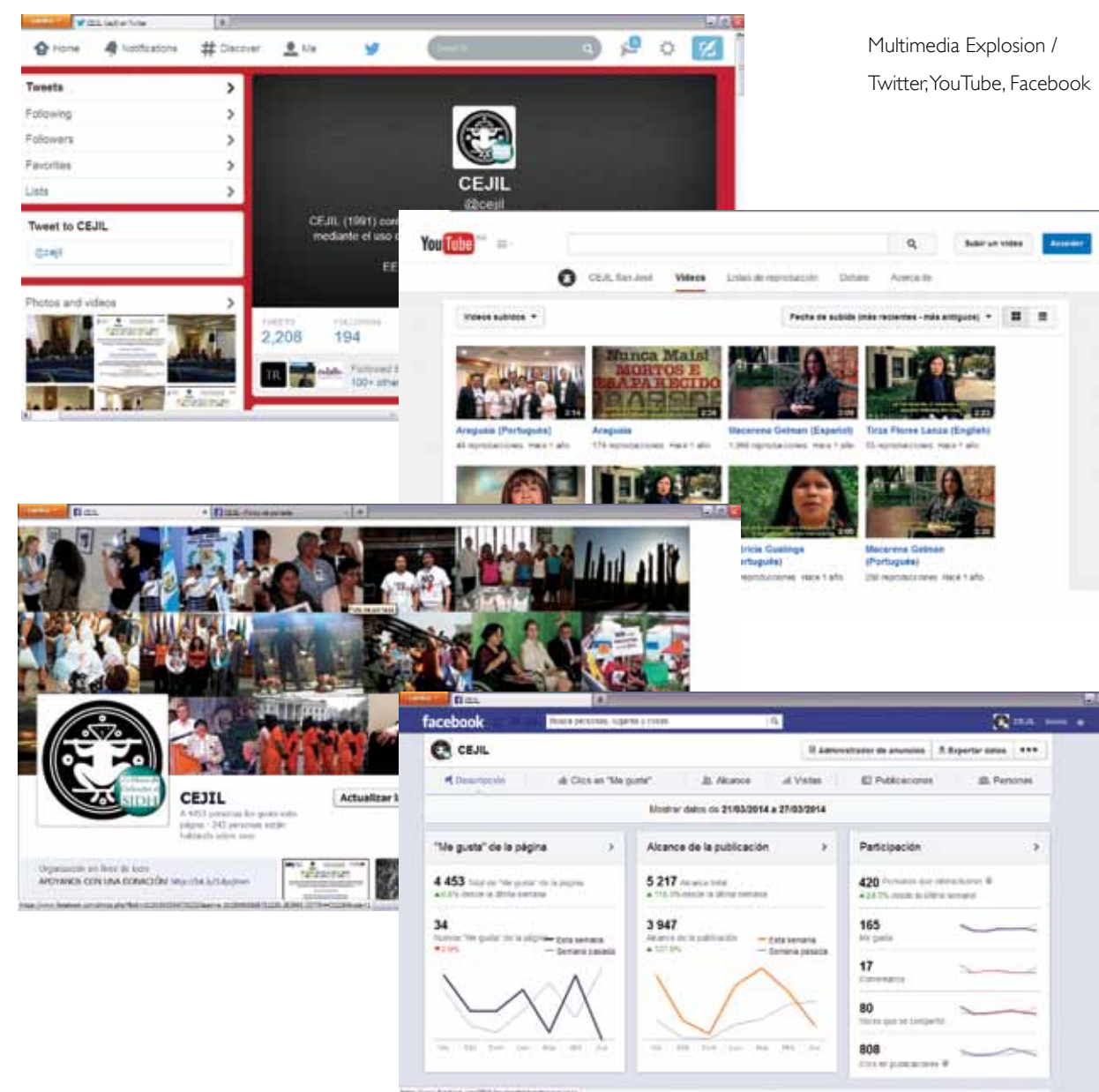


Multimedia Explosion

As new technologies and digital media develop, the human rights movement must develop with them, and CEJIL has invested much energy into ensuring an explosion onto the digital scene. Visits to the website and followers on Twitter and Facebook more than doubled between 2010 and 2012.

CEJIL is dramatically expanding the audience it reaches and the numbers of people who are informed about its work, the things it fights for, and the reasons it exists. The greater the numbers of people who know about CEJIL's labors, the more its message is democratized and really brought home.

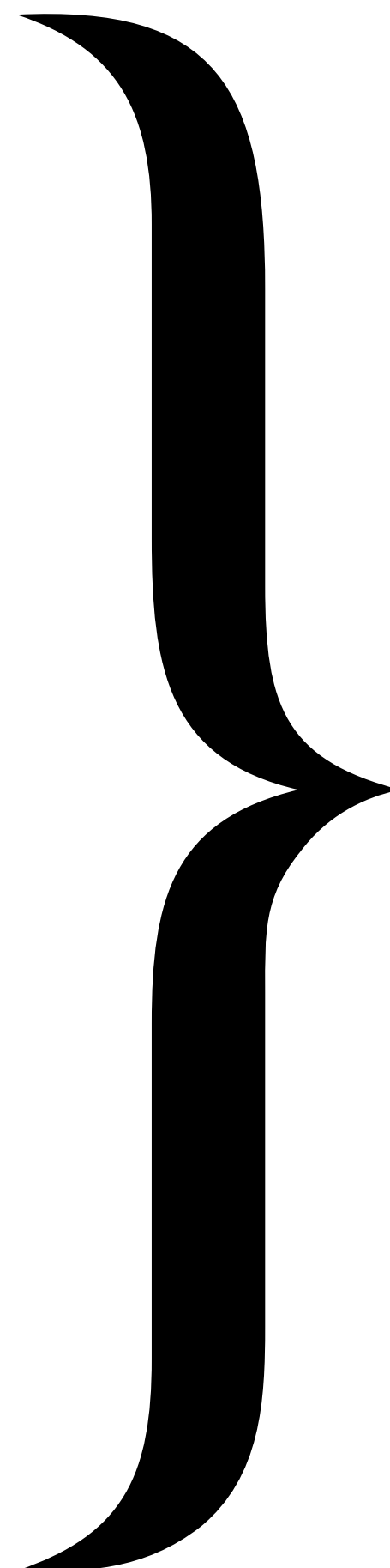
In 2012, CEJIL began to create videos as part of the wider campaign to defend the IAS. These videos, made in partnership with Canal Capital of Bogotá and TV Cultura of São Paulo, involve the testimonies of IAS users, beneficiaries, and high-profile human rights defenders. All videos are available on YouTube and CEJIL's Vimeo Channel. Given the 21st Century communications landscape, these videos have an immense potential to reach untapped audiences and spread CEJIL's message to wider and more diverse groups.



Multimedia Explosion /
Twitter, YouTube, Facebook

CEJIL in numbers:

Number of cases, precautionary measures, and provisional measures litigated in 2012 and 2013	313
Number of victims of cases and beneficiaries of protective measures represented in 2012 and 2013	7,419
Number of friendly settlement agreements reached in 2012 and 2013	5
Number of acknowledgments of responsibility made by governments in 2012-13	12
Amount of reparations ordered by the IA Court in 2012-13	22,550,926
Number of victims of the reparations ordered by the IA Court in 2012-13	1,921
Amount of compensation paid by governments in 2012-2013 as a result of IAS decisions	1,626,500
Number of victims receiving compensation paid by governments in 2012-13	48





Annex of Cases

Brazil

Araguaia v. Brazil

During the Brazilian dictatorship, a rebel group named the “Guerrilha do Araguaia” emerged in response to the operations conducted by Brazil’s Armed Forces in the early 1970’s. The authorities responded with a repressive offensive against the Guerrilha, leading to the forced disappearance of at least 70 individuals in the state of Para. Many victims were tortured and executed. As a result of the nation’s Amnesty Law, State agents who were implicated in the crimes were protected from investigation. For more than 30 years, the State refused to provide information on the fate of the victims, despite legal actions being initiated by their family members. CEJIL has been litigating the case since 1995, in collaboration with Grupo Tortura Nunca Más de Rio de Janeiro and the Comissão dos Familiares de Mortos e Desaparecidos Políticos de São Paulo. In 2008, the IACHR issued its Merits Report on the case, finding that the Brazilian State arbitrarily detained, tortured and executed members of the group. Faced with the lack of compliance on the part of the State, the case was sent to the IA Court, before which a hearing was held in 2010. In December 2011, in compliance with the terms of the IA Court Sentence, the State provided the living victims with monetary reparations. In

May 2012, President Rousseff inaugurated a truth commission to investigate the crimes committed during the military dictatorship, and in September 2012, legal processes were initiated against two former military officers who played prominent roles in the Araguaia offensive. This is an extremely important case in terms of the discussion regarding the validity of Amnesty Laws.

Herzog v. Brazil

In 1975, during the Brazilian military dictatorship, Army intelligence and Civilian Police officers arbitrarily detained, tortured and killed journalist and university professor Vladimir Herzog in São Paulo. His death, which was first reported as a suicide, helped to raise awareness in civil society of the practice of torture that was being used at the time against political prisoners in Brazil. The investigation into his death was closed as a result of the 1979 Brazilian Amnesty Law. In July 2009, CEJIL, the Fundação Interamericana de Defesa dos Direitos Humanos, Centro Santo Dias e Direitos Humanos Arquidiocese São Paulo and the Grupo Tortura Nunca Más de São Paulo filed a petition before the IACHR. In 2012, the case was declared admissible. This is one of several cases being addressed by CEJIL as part of a wider strategy to highlight the State’s responsibility for crimes committed

Note: List is not exhaustive. Cases have been selected based on their relevance during the reporting period.

during the military dictatorship. This case also provides an opportunity to examine issues such as the prosecution of common crimes in military courts and the use of devices such as amnesty, the statute of limitations and “res judicata” as obstacles to criminal prosecution of gross human rights violations.

Luiz José da Cunha v. Brazil

Luiz José da Cunha was a leader of Ação Libertadora Nacional, which fought against the military dictatorship which ruled Brazil from 1964 to 1985. In 1973, da Cunha was arrested, tortured and murdered by Government agents. His body was buried in a clandestine grave, remaining unidentified until 2006. The investigation into his death was closed as a result of the 1979 Amnesty Law. CEJIL, the Fundação Interamericana de Defesa dos Direitos Humanos, the Centro Santo Dias e Direitos Humanos Arquidiocese São Paulo and Movimento Tortura Nunca Mais de Pernambuco filed a petition before the IACHR in July 2009. This case is part of an attempt to reopen the investigation into crimes committed during the military regime.

Favela Nova Brasília v. Brazil

In May 1995, fifteen policemen stormed the Nova Brasília slum in Rio de Janeiro. The officers killed at least thirteen people. According

to witnesses and forensic medical reports, the victims were summarily executed. Despite substantive evidence, the case is still in the criminal investigation phase. In November 1995, a petition was presented to the IACHR by CEJIL and ISER, and the Admissibility report was published in September 1998. CEJIL continues to litigate the case before the IACHR.

Evandro Oliveira et al v. Brazil

In October 1994, more than 100 police officers from the Anti-Narcotics Division raided the Nova Brasília slum in Rio de Janeiro under the pretext of issuing 104 arrest warrants. Police officers killed thirteen residents and subjected others to sexual abuse. Despite the time that has passed since the events occurred, police investigations have still not been completed and none of those responsible have been tried or convicted. In July 1996, the case was presented to the IACHR by CEJIL and ISER, and in 2001 the Admissibility Report was published. CEJIL continues to litigate the case before the IACHR.

Maria de Penha v. Brazil

In 1983, Maria da Penha’s husband shot her while she was sleeping, in an attempt to murder her. Although the attack left Penha paraplegic, she did not report or seek to bring

Chile

charges against her husband for the crimes. However, following the second attempted murder that she suffered, she sought legal protection. In 1984, Penha's husband was charged with attempted homicide, and legal proceedings began at the domestic level. Despite substantial evidence of his responsibility for the crimes, over 15 years after the events, Penha's former husband was still at liberty. CEJIL, in partnership with the victim and CLADEM, litigated this case before the IACHR. In 2001, the IACHR found Brazil internationally responsible for violating Penha's rights to a fair trial, judicial protection, and equal protection under the law, guaranteed in the American Convention of Human Rights, and for failing to carry out its duties under the Convention of Belem do Pará. After the Commission's decision, Penha's ex-husband was found guilty and sentenced to prison, and Penha was provided with the economic reparation of US \$30,000. Notably, in 2006, in a historic step, Brazil passed its first law addressing gender violence, known as "The Maria da Penha Law." The law includes criminal penalties for perpetrators of domestic violence, outlines rehabilitations programs for offenders, and calls for special police forces and tribunals to deal with the issue.

Norín Catrimán v. Chile

Over a number of years, the Mapuche Community has suffered the discriminatory application of the Chilean Anti Terrorism law. Some members of the community, including one of its leaders, Werken Mapuche Víctor Manuel Ancalaf, have been imprisoned, provoking serious consequences on a personal and familial level, as well as in terms of the serious and damaging impact on the community. At the time this case was first presented to the Commission, Chile's Anti-terrorism law had only been applied against members of this community, however in recent years the law has been used against other individuals and groups. Furthermore, the law has been applied in violation of the rights of judicial protection. A public hearing took place before the IA Court in May 2013, after the case had been sent to the Court's jurisdiction in 2011, following several years of litigation before the IACHR.

Lemún v. Chile

In November 2002, a group of Mapuches from the Montutui Mapu indigenous community peacefully occupied Santa Elisa forestlands, located in the Ninth Region of Chile, in an effort to recover their ancestral lands. Members of the rural police force, known as Carabineros, converged on the site to verify

Colombia

Jinneth Bedoya v. Colombia

On May 25, 2000, Jineth Bedoya, journalist for the Colombian newspaper "El Espectador" was kidnapped in the entrance to La Modelo penitentiary center in Bogota after having been invited to carry out an interview there. She was detained for 16 hours, tortured physically and psychologically and subjected to sexual violence by her captors. The State failed to investigate and sanction those responsible within a reasonable time period, and consequently the case was presented before the IACHR in May 2011. In May 2013, CEJIL became an official co-litigant of this case, in partnership with Fundación para la Libertad de Prensa (FLIP). For several years leading up to this point, CEJIL provided FLIP with technical assistance in the case, which addresses the harassment, threats, kidnapping, and sexual violence committed against the Colombian journalist Jineth Bedoya, along with the impunity surrounding the crimes and the lack of judicial protection on the part of the Colombian State. The case is currently before the IACHR.

Alba Lucía v. Colombia

Alba Lucía Rodríguez, a young peasant woman, became pregnant following a rape she suffered. During birth, the child died and Alba was accused of murder and sub-

sequently sentenced to 42 years in prison. The case addresses sexual violence against women and discrimination against women in the Colombian judicial system. In 2000, CEJIL presented a petition before the IACHR. Following the publishing of the Admissibility report, a Friendly Settlement agreement was signed in 2010. Subsequently, several working meetings have taken place before the IACHR aimed at encouraging State compliance with the terms of the sentence and in November 2012, a public act of apology was carried out. During this act, Ruth Stella Correa, Colombia's Chief Minister of Justice, acknowledged the country's international responsibility for the violations committed against the victim.

Manuel Cepeda Vargas v. Colombia

The case of Senator Manuel Cepeda epitomizes the wave of political assassinations of members of UP that took place in the 1980's and 90's. In 1996, the IACHR reported that every two days a member of the Patriotic Union (UP) party was murdered. Prior to his death, Manuel Cepeda wrote articles on the extermination of UP and Colombian Communist Party (PCC) members and charged high-ranking military officers of being involved in organizing paramilitary groups. Because of the repeated threats made by paramilitary groups against the lives of Cepeda

and other UP members, the IACHR granted precautionary measures for their protection. The death threats against Cepeda were publicly known. In 1994, several men, including members of the military forces, shot him to death while he was on his way to Congress. Cepeda's son Ivan had to leave Colombia for extended periods of time for security reasons, as he pressed forward to find and bring to justice his father's assassins. Two low-ranking military members, who participated in the assassination, were sentenced to prison terms and are currently out of jail on probation. The military officers who planned the crime have not been investigated. Despite solid evidence of the involvement of members of the paramilitary forces, none of the leaders of these groups has been convicted. In 2009, the case was sent to the IA Court and in 2010, the Court released its sentence. In August 2013, the Colombian State complied with one of the Court stipulations, establishing the Cepeda Vargas Grant for University Students studying Communications.

Palace of Justice v. Colombia

The operation to retake the Palace of Justice by the Colombian Army on November 6, 1985, is an example of excessive use of force by the State. On that day, members of the M-19 guerrilla group took the Palace by

force to protest what they perceived as the Government's failure to abide by the agreement to a cease-fire and to hold talks. The State response to the situation was chaotic and violent. Members of the Army and Police conducted an operation to regain the Palace, lasting 27 hours and including the use of heavy artillery. Approximately 100 of the nearly 300 hostages being held died in the assault of the Government security forces, including the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and many other judges.

Additionally, 10 civilians and a woman allegedly belonging to M-19, who was wounded, were arrested by the Armed Forces and became the victims of forced disappearance. Many other people were arrested, tortured and subsequently released. Information on the case was first submitted to the IACHR in 1991 by the families of the disappeared. In 2000, CEJIL joined the team providing legal representation in the case comprised of the Jose Alvear Restrepo Lawyers' Collective and the Commission for Justice and Peace. In November 2013, a two day hearing on the case was held before the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, and a sentence is expected during 2014.

Dominican Republic

Narciso González v. Dominican Republic

On May 26, 1994, Narciso Gonzalez was arrested and forcibly disappeared by Dominican military forces. He worked as a journalist, attorney and university professor and was widely known promoter of sociocultural activity and champion of human rights. Gonzalez was held at military agency facilities located outside the city of Santo Domingo, after having drawn attention to voter fraud in the May 16 elections of that year. The National Police Chief and high-ranking members of the military deny that such an arrest ever took place. To date, the whereabouts of Professor Gonzalez are still unknown and the Dominican State has not yet investigated or clarified the crime. The initial petition submitted to the IACHR by CEJIL and the Comisión de la Verdad was admitted in 1998. After many procedural steps and requests, the IACHR issued its Merits Report in December 2009. This case could be the first time the Dominican Government looks into past crimes and addresses responsibility for silencing a journalist who spoke out against crimes of public interest.

Ecuador

Sarayaku v. Ecuador

The Sarayaku indigenous group of Ecuador was granted legal ownership of its land in 1992. Despite this, in 1996 Ecuador signed a contract with an Argentine petrol company, Compañía General de Combustibles (CGC), for oil exploration and drilling of the Sarayaku land without consulting the Sarayaku people, who strongly opposed the company's presence. With the presence of CGC, the Sarayaku territory was militarized, generating numerous threats to the integrity, safety, and freedom of movement of the Sarayaku people. The presence of the company in Sarayaku altered the way the community lived, including the introduction of explosives in indigenous sacred land. Tension increased in the area, leading to clashes between indigenous peoples, CGC security forces and the Ecuadorian army. CEJIL, Centro de Derechos Económicos y Sociales (CDES), and Asociación Pueblo Kichwa de Sarayaku presented a petition to the IACHR in 2003. Following a 2011 public hearing before the IA Court, a sentence was issued on the case in 2012, finding Ecuador guilty of violating the rights of the Sarayaku Community, and establishing the obligation of Ecuador and all signatories of the American Convention on Human Rights to instigate processes of free, prior, and informed consultation before beginning

any projects that could affect the territories of indigenous groups or other rights essential to their survival. In 2013 economic reparations of almost \$2 million were paid to the Sarayaku Community, in compliance with the decision.

El Salvador

Beatriz v. El Salvador

Beatriz, a young Salvadoran woman carrying a fetus with conditions incompatible with life outside the womb, also suffered from grave health problems making a full-term pregnancy extremely dangerous. She was unable to seek an abortion due to El Salvador's laws which prohibit it in all circumstances, including those in which the life of the woman is at risk. In May 2013, the IA Court ruled that El Salvador must adopt and guarantee all medical measures necessary to ensure, in an urgent manner, the due protection of Beatriz's right to life and personal integrity. Following this resolution, Beatriz underwent an interruption of the pregnancy and recovered successfully. The Court's resolution is historic, as it sets the precedent in the Americas that therapeutic abortions must be practiced when necessary to protect the life of the woman. It also served to raise awareness and trigger public discussion on the issue, as well as place the topic on the Salvadoran public agenda. In November 2013, CEJIL alongside La Colectiva Feminista para el Desarrollo Local de El Salvador, Agrupación Ciudadana por la Despenalización del Aborto Terapéutico, Ético y Eugénico de El Salvador, and IPAS Central America filed a petition before the Commission on this case.

El Mozote v. El Salvador

This case addresses the 1981 massacre of approximately 1,000 men, women, and children – one of the largest massacres recorded in modern Latin American history – at the hands of State agents in the village of El Mozote and surrounding areas in Morazán, El Salvador. While legal proceedings began at the State level in the years following the tragic events, the case was ultimately dismissed in 1993, due to passage of an amnesty law pardoning all crimes committed during the 12 year armed conflict. No action has been taken in the case at the State level since 1992. At the international level, proceedings began in 1990, when the *Oficina de Tutela Legal del Arzobispado de San Salvador* (Tutela Legal) filed a petition before the Commission. CEJIL became a co-litigant in 2000. A public hearing was held before IA Court in 2012, more than 30 years after the events. An historic decision was issued by the Court in December of the same year, which directly addresses El Salvador's amnesty law, declaring that no legal obstacles may stand in the way of justice for grave human rights abuses committed during the armed conflict. It adds to a set of cases in which CEJIL pursued the development of jurisprudence to strengthen domestic efforts for accountability of crimes against humanity and gross violations of human rights.

Honduras

Buzos Misquitos v. Honduras

This case addresses the deep-water fishing for lobster and shrimp carried out by the Misquito Community without proper training or equipment. Approximately 5,000 Nicaraguan indigenous Misquitos and 9,000 Hondurans depend on deep sea diving, a skill which they learn without necessary equipment or proper training. In the absence of other fields of work, the divers must risk themselves in this extremely dangerous activity to make a living. In Honduras, this type of fishing has left about 4,200 workers crippled and has been responsible for at least 400 deaths. This population suffers from a lack of legal recourse available to defend its rights. The Commission received the petition for the case in 2004 and it was deemed admissible in 2008. In 2011, with the support of the *Confederación Unitaria de Trabajadores Hondureños*, CEJIL presented a document denouncing this situation to the International Labor Organization. In March 2013, the ILO released its annual report on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations, mentioning the situation of the Misquitos and recommending the Honduran Government follow up by providing the ILO with more specific information.

Dismissed Judges v. Honduras

In 2009, Adan Guillermo Lopez Lone, Luis Alonso Chevez, Ramon Enrique Barrios, and Tirza del Carmen Flores, four Honduran judges, were arbitrarily and illegally dismissed from office for expressing views contrary to the political leaders of the nation's military coup. CEJIL presented this case to the Commission in July 2010, and it was declared admissible in 2011. It addresses the threats faced by democratic institutions following the 2009 coup in Honduras, in particular the threat to judicial independence. This is the first case addressing events related to the Honduran coup to go before the Commission.

Mexico

Paloma Angélica Escobar Ledezma v. Mexico

16 year old Paloma Angelica Escobar Ledezma disappeared in Chihuahua, Mexico on March 2, 2002 when she was on her way to classes. She was found dead several weeks later. The criminal investigation was severely flawed, showing many irregularities, including the planting of evidence to try to frame Paloma's ex-boyfriend. This case is part of a widespread pattern of murders of women in the city - since 1993, more than 700 women and girls have been murdered in the Chihuahua State. Law enforcement authorities have systematically failed to appropriately investigate these crimes. The complaint was filed before the Commission in December 2003 by CEJIL, Norma Ledezma Ortega, mother of the victim, Justicia para Nuestras Hijas, and the Comisión Mexicana de Defensa y Promoción de los Derechos Humanos A.C. (CMDPDH). The IACHR declared the case admissible in March 2006 and later published its report on Merits. In 2012, the State of Chihuahua created the "Special Prosecutor's Unit for Female Victims of Gender-related Crimes" in compliance with the recommendations issued by the IACHR on the case. This was a significant achievement for the protection of women and the implementation of the decisions of the IAS, and has placed the femicide discussion higher on the national agenda.

Inés Fernández Ortega and Valentina Rosendo Cantú v. Mexico

On March 22, 2002, Ines Fernandez Ortega, an indigenous Tlapeneca woman from Guerrero, Mexico, was in her house with her children when three soldiers from the Mexican army entered looking for her husband, who they accused of a suspected robbery. The soldiers questioned her and subsequently raped her. On February 16, 2001, Valentina Rosendo Cantu was raped and beaten in front of her daughter after being confronted by a military group who questioned her. Both cases took place within the broader context of human rights violations committed by the Mexican military in Mexico's war on drugs, and address judicial impunity in Mexico, as they were tried under Mexico's military justice system before reaching the IAS, when, according to international standards of human rights, they should have been tried under the ordinary justice system. CEJIL litigated these cases before the IA Court throughout 2009 and 2010, and the decisions were emitted in October 2010. Both decisions were favorable, requiring Mexico to provide redress to the women and their families and to revise its Military Justice Code in order to prevent these types of cases from being tried under military jurisdiction in the future. Additionally, the sentence issued in the Ines Fernández

case is significant, because it marks the first time that the Court has defined rape as a type of torture. In June 2011, CEJIL participated in a compliance hearing before the Court, at which time the Court reaffirmed the sentences in both cases. CEJIL is very pleased to announce that, in August 2011, Mexico transferred both cases from military jurisdiction to the ordinary justice system in compliance with the IA Court's sentences. Also in compliance with the decisions, in December 2011 and March 2012 Public Acknowledgements of State responsibility were held for Valentina and Inés, respectively. However, the perpetrators have still not been brought to justice, and several other stipulations contained in the Inter-American rulings have not been addressed.

Gutiérrez Olivera v. Mexico

In 2002, Jesús Ángel Gutiérrez Olivera was arbitrarily arrested, detained, tortured and forcibly disappeared by State agents. In the time leading up to these events, witnesses have reported that members of the Judicial Police visited Jesús Ángel at his place of work, threatening to implicate him in a kidnapping case if a bribe was not paid. Since his arbitrary arrest and detainment, the whereabouts of Jesús Ángel have been unknown. The victim's mother, Leonor Olvera López,

initiated a legal proceeding in Mexico, but the case was closed by the Judge who reviewed it. The case was first presented to the IACHR in 2003, when CEJIL and ACAT-Mexico filed a petition on the victim's behalf. In May 2012, a friendly settlement agreement was signed in this case, the terms of which require the State to fully investigate the crimes, determine the whereabouts of the victim, conduct a public act of apology, provide the victim's family with monetary reparations, and implement the 2011 recommendations of the UN Special Rapporteur on Forced Disappearance. In September 2012 a public act of apology took place.

Florencio Hernández Dolores and Santiago Sánchez Silvestre v México

Florencio Hernández Dolores and Santiago Sánchez Silvestre were illegally detained and tortured by Federal Police agents in 1997. They were subsequently sentenced to more than 40 years in prison for crimes they had not committed, following two criminal trials where due process was not observed, and convictions were based on confessions obtained under torture. Furthermore, there was a lack of investigation and consequently failure to punish the allegations of torture which had been denounced before the authorities. CEJIL, in partnership with Servicios Legales e Inves-

tigación y Estudios Jurídicos (SLIEJ), submitted a petition before the IACHR on May 10, 2000. The IACHR recommended that the State of Mexico conduct a thorough, impartial and effective investigation into the events, however following the State's failure to comply with the recommendations, the case was sent to the Inter-American Court in March 2013. In April 2013, the judgment convicting the victims was revoked by an internal tribunal and the release of the victims and the elimination of their criminal records were ordered. Then, on November 18, 2013, a friendly settlement agreement was signed in which Mexico recognized its responsibility for violating the rights of the two men and committed to fully investigating the case, as well as providing the victims with adequate reparations.

Faustino Jiménez Álvarez v. Mexico

During the morning of June 17, 2001, Guerrero State police officers entered the house of Faustino Jiménez Álvarez, where he was sleeping along with his wife, children and other family members. Following an interrogation and beating he was removed from the house and the lives of his wife and family were verbally threatened by the officers. His whereabouts has not been known since. A petition was filed before the IACHR on April 25, 2002, by CEJIL, Acción de los Cristianos

para la Abolición de la Tortura (ACAT), the Centro Regional de Defensa de los Derechos Humanos "José María Morelos y Pavón, A. C.". The Admissibility report was published in April 2007. Following litigation before the IACHR, a Friendly Settlement agreement was signed in 2012.

Mariana Selvas Gómez et al v. Mexico (Women of Atenco)

Federal, State and municipal police officers raided the town of San Salvador Atenco in May 2006, assaulting and arresting demonstrators in an operation characterized by an indiscriminate and excessive use of force by public authorities. During the operation, State agents arbitrarily arrested hundreds of people and assaulted many others by using disproportionate force. Twenty six of the forty-seven women who were arrested reported having been victims of sexual assaults. CEJIL and the Centro de Derechos Humanos Miguel Agustín Pro Juárez (Centro PRODH) filed a petition with the IACHR in April 2008 on behalf of 11 of the victims of sexual assault. The case was declared admissible in November 2011, and a hearing was held before the Commission in 2013. The case epitomizes the violence perpetrated by some members of the security forces against women and the use of rape as a form of torture.

Peru

Barrios Altos v. Peru

In November 1991, members of the Colina Group Death squad entered into a community gathering being held in the Altos neighborhood of Lima, Peru, where residents were attempting to raise funds for repairs to neighborhood buildings. The Colina Group, a covert operative of the Fujimori regime, killed fifteen people, amongst them a 9 year old child, and left several others seriously wounded. The case was litigated for several years before the IAS in partnership with Coordinadora Nacional de Derechos Humanos (CNDDHH), the Asociación Pro Derechos Humanos (APRODEH), the Instituto de Defensa Legal (IDL) and the Fundación Ecuémica Para el Desarrollo y la Paz (FE-DEPAZ). A public hearing was held on the case before the IA Court in the year 2000 and in March 2001 a landmark sentence was issued which lead to the overturning of the Amnesty law and the trial and sentencing of former President Fujimori. However, in 2012 the decision of the Supreme Court of Peru to reduce the sentences of those responsible for the Barrios Altos massacre and to nullify the definition of the violations as crimes against humanity complicated the path to justice in the nation. In response, CEJIL participated in a hearing before the IA Court, in which it stressed the incompatibility of this

act with the IA Court's decision in the case and international standards of law. CEJIL is pleased to report that, in September 2012, the IA Court issued a resolution in the case, declaring Peru's decision incompatible with the country's obligations as a signatory of the American Convention on Human Rights, and just a few days later, the Supreme Court of Peru annulled the decision.

Related case:

La Cantuta v. Peru

In July 1992, nine students and a professor were abducted and executed by a death squad in Peru. The Government finally arrested the perpetrators, but they were released under an Amnesty Law approved over night at a hastily convened session of Parliament in 1995. The family members of the victims filed a petition with the IACHR in 1992. Asociación Pro Derechos Humanos, the Centro de Estudios y Acción para la Paz (CEAPAZ) and CEJIL joined forces in this case as representatives of the victims. In light of the Peruvian Government's failure to implement the recommendations issued by the IACHR, the case was submitted in 2006 to the IA Court. In November 2006, the Court found that the amnesty laws lacked any legal effect and ordered the prosecution of the perpetrators of the massacre. The investigations

led to Fujimori being formally charged with the crimes after he had fled the country in 2002. In a unanimous decision, the Supreme Court found that the seriousness and scope of the crimes and the position of the defendant at the time the crimes were committed warranted 25 years in jail, the maximum sentence provided by Peruvian law. This was a landmark case in the struggle against impunity in Peru and the world, as it is the first time a national justice system in Latin America found a democratically elected head of State guilty of crimes against humanity.

Kenneth Ney Anzualdo v. Peru

Twenty-five year old Peruvian university student Kenneth Ney Anzualdo was forcibly disappeared in December 1993, when the bus he was riding in was intercepted by a car and three men who identified themselves as members of the Investigations Police Force ordered him to get off the bus and threw him into their car. The disappearance took place two weeks before Mr. Anzualdo was scheduled to give testimony on the forced disappearance of one of his classmates, Martin Roca Casas. CEJIL and Asociación Pro Derechos Humanos (APRODEH) filed a petition before the Commission in 1998. The Peruvian government, in its defense, argued that the investigation of Mr. Anzualdo's case

was discontinued because of the suspicion that he was involved in acts of terrorism. The Commission found Peru internationally responsible for the crimes in November 2007, issuing several recommendations to the government including the full investigation of the events and punishment of the perpetrators, and economic reparation of his family members. In compliance with these recommendations, a public act of recognition took place in July 2013, in which the prime minister of Peru, Juan Jimenez, apologized for the arbitrary detainment and forced disappearance of Anzualdo.

United States

Djamel Ameziane v. United States and Protection Measures for Guantanamo Detainees

Djamel Ameziane was captured by authorities while trying to cross the border from Afghanistan to Pakistan. Ameziane was then presumably sold to U.S. military forces for a bounty. The U.S. military transported him to Guantánamo in February 2002. In December 2013, he was forcibly repatriated to Algeria. Ameziane, an ethnic Berber from Algeria, fled his home country 16 years ago in order to escape persecution. He lived in Austria and then Canada, where he applied for political asylum but was ultimately denied refuge. With few options, he traveled to war-torn Afghanistan, where he was captured. At the Guantanamo detention camp, Mr. Ameziane has been held in solitary confinement in a small windowless cell. U.S. personnel have subjected him to various forms of torture and inhumane treatment. Mr. Ameziane has never been alleged by the U.S. government to have engaged in any acts of terrorism or hostilities. This case is being jointly litigated by CEJIL and CCR before the IACHR, alongside a legal process before the organism for Precautionary Measures for the detainees at Guantanamo.

Uruguay

Gelman v. Uruguay

Maria Claudia Garcia Iruretagoyena de Gelman was abducted in Buenos Aires in 1976, and clandestinely transferred to Uruguay. She was 7 months pregnant at the time of her abduction, and later gave birth to her child, Maria Macarena, in detention in Uruguay. Following the birth of Maria Macarena, Maria Claudia was the victim of forced disappearance and the child was given in adoption to a member of the Uruguayan Police Force. These crimes were carried out in the context of Operation Condor, a mutual cooperation agreement between the dictatorships of Argentina, Chile, Paraguay, Uruguay and Brazil, functioning as an international force of elimination of political dissidents. In 1999, Maria Macarena's grandfather, the Argentine poet Juan Gelman, located his granddaughter. CEJIL and attorney Jose Luis Gonzalez jointly filed a complaint with the IACHR in May 2006. In May 2007, the IACHR declared the case admissible and in 2009, issued its Merits Report. Despite the recommendations made by the Commission that the nation's Amnesty Law (Law on the Expiration of the Punitive Claims of the State) should be repealed, the State did not do so. Consequently, the case was brought before the IA Court, and in 2011 a sentence was issued. Following this, in October of the same year, Uruguay passed

a law which invalidated some of the stipulations of the Law on the Expiration of Punitive Claims of the State. In the months following the partial invalidation of the amnesty law, the immense impact of this act could be seen as dozens of petitions were filed for crimes committed during the military dictatorship. In January 2012, the State provided the victims with monetary reparations and President Mujica carried out a public act of acknowledgement for the violations. However, in early 2013 justice was once again complicated in the nation, as the Supreme Court ruled that the law passed in 2011 was unconstitutional, subsequently nullifying it and restoring the full validity of the Amnesty Law.

Venezuela

Familia Barrios v. Venezuela

The Barrios family of Guanayen in the southern Aragua State has been the target of police persecution for a number of years, with a large number of family members killed in violent circumstances in which police officers are suspected of committing the crimes. In 1998, Benito Barrios was executed, following which in 2003 and 2004, respectively, Benito's brothers Narciso and Luis Alberto were killed. Following this, the nephews Rigoberto and Oscar were murdered in 2005 and 2009. In January 2009, the IACHR admitted a petition regarding Benito Barrios' extrajudicial execution and the assaults on his relatives, in which CEJIL and the Comisión de Derechos Humanos de Justicia y Paz del Estado Aragua documented human rights violations of more than 30 family members that were victims of extrajudicial executions, injuries, deprivation of liberty, threats, harassment and raids. Since the case was admitted, Wilmer (2010) and Juan José Barrios (2011) were also assassinated. In 2011 Néstor Caudi Barrios, who was 24 years old, suffered severely from an attack that left him permanently injured. Lastly, in May 2013, Roni David Barrios, 17 years old, was killed. The IACHR approved precautionary protection measures for the Barrios family members and the IA Court also granted the family provisional measures. The

case has been unfolding in a context of arbitrary detentions and systematic extrajudicial executions targeting young people belonging to lower-income groups and perpetrated by police agents, which began in the late 1980's. The case was referred to the Court July 26, 2010. Due to these incidents, on November 14, 2011, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights condemned Venezuela for violating the basic human right to life, the integrity of the members of the Barrios family, and for failing to conduct an investigation surrounding the murders.

Uzcátegui v. Venezuela

In January 2001, Néstor José Uzcátegui was killed in his home by police armed agents linked with military forces. He was beaten and subsequently shot in front of members of his family, who were also beaten, including his 70-year-old grandmother. Nestor's brother Luis, the primary witness in the case, was then detained and harassed by the police. To date, those involved in these events have remain unpunished for the killing of Néstor José, and his brother Luis has endured harassment and intimidation for his tireless efforts to have the case investigated. This case is emblematic of a pattern of systematic arbitrary detention and extrajudicial executions since the late 1980's, perpetrated by the police against young men

from lower social backgrounds. CEJIL has been in contact with the brother of the victim since 2002. In that same year, CEJIL and co-petitioner Comité de Familiares de Víctimas de los Sucesos de Febrero–Marzo de 1989 obtained protective measures for Luis from the Commission, and, in consideration of his level of risk, also had protective measures granted by the Court. La Comisión de Derechos Humanos Justicia y Paz del Estado de Aragua and CEJIL presented a petition to the IACHR in March 2007. The Commission subsequently submitted the case to the jurisdiction of the Court in 2011, and in 2012 the hearing was held before the Tribunal. In October of the same year, the Court issued its sentence on the case, ruling in favor of the victims and ordering full investigation of the crimes. Furthermore, the Court recognized, for the first time, that there exists in Venezuela a context of extrajudicial executions on the part of State authorities.

Hermanos Landaeta v. Venezuela

In November 1996, Igmar Alexander was approached by armed police officers and threatened with arrest. Attempting to run away, Alexander was shot in the back by police officers who then subjected him to further violence, eventually killing him. In December 1996, Igmar Alexander's brother – Eduardo José – was arbitrarily arrested and

detained by the police and subsequently executed. Eduardo was 17 years old at the time. Both executions followed a series of harassments and threats against the family, and both cases remain in impunity. Following eight years of litigation before the IACHR,

this case was sent to the jurisdiction of the Court in July 2012. A hearing is expected to take place during 2014. This case exemplifies the common practice in Venezuela of the use of excessive force by police officers against young males of the lower classes.

Public assembly in Paraguay / CEJIL photo library



FAQ's

When and why was CEJIL started?

In 1991, CEJIL was founded at a meeting held in Caracas by a group of prominent Latin American human rights defenders. The idea underpinning its creation was to form a regional organization that would use the international human rights law and the bodies of the Inter-American Human Rights System to promote justice, liberty and a dignified existence for the citizens of the hemisphere.

How many Countries does it work in?

CEJIL works across the Americas. It currently has offices in Buenos Aires, Argentina; Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; San Jose, Costa Rica; and Washington D.C., USA.

Does CEJIL charge for its legal representation?

No. CEJIL represents the victims of human rights abuses free of charge.

How many victims does CEJIL represent?

As of 2013, CEJIL represents over 7,400 victims in more than 200 open cases before the IAS, in partnership with some 360 partner organizations and human rights defenders. In addition to representation, CEJIL also provides free legal advice to hundreds of victims.

How is CEJIL funded?

CEJIL's funding comes from the generous donations made by grant giving foundations, philanthropic organizations, individuals, the UN, non-regional governments, and other supporters.

How does CEJIL select the cases it litigates?

In order to ensure a response to human rights violations which has the greatest possible impact, CEJIL litigates cases emblematic of gross

human rights violations in the Americas. These cases help to contribute to social justice, strengthen democracy and compel States to take steps to ensure greater respect for human rights. However, due to limited resources and the nature of its mission, CEJIL cannot take on all of the cases submitted for consideration.

Do these cases make a difference?

The cases litigated by the organization not only protect victims' rights, but also establish regional standards of human rights protection and ensure non-repetition of violations. Often, the litigation of cases leads to State recognition of responsibility and public apologies made by States to the victims, friendly settlements in which a range of reparations are agreed, IACHR or IA Court pronouncements on violations committed by States, Court-ordered reparations to victims, and changes to a country's laws and policies.

Between 2012 and 2013, victims represented by CEJIL received reparation payments of more than US\$1,626,500.

How can I help?

A range of dedicated professionals, ranging from attorneys and law school students to communications personnel, translators and volunteers help CEJIL to work towards its mission by devoting time to the organization through the internship or fellowship program. Most commitments run on a three month basis; further information can be found on the website. Additionally, CEJIL accepts donations from individuals and institutions. This can be done online via the organization's website. If you wish to contribute in any other way, please contact CEJIL via the contact form online <http://cejil.org/en/contact>, or using the specific contact details for each of CEJIL's offices.

CEJIL's Professional and Internship Programs

CEJIL's work would not be possible without the dedication and hard work of those who form part of the Professional and Internship programs. Each of the four offices counts the presence of law students and graduates, communications professionals and administrative personnel who work with the organization for a minimum of three months on a pro bono basis. The internship program is open for applications every three months.

For more information, please visit <http://cejil.org/en/pasantias-en-cejil>

Woman in Potosi, Bolivia / ©Viviana D'Amelia



Acronyms

Asociación Miskita Hondureña de BuzosLisiados	AMHBLI
Asociación Pro-Derechos Humanos	APRODEH
Center for Constitutional Rights	CCR
Center for Justice and International Law	CEJIL
Centro Nicaragüense de Derechos Humanos	CENIDH
Centro de Derechos Humanos Miguel Agustín Pro Juárez	Centro PRODH
Centro para la educación y prevención del SIDA	CEPRESI
Centro de Investigación y Promoción para América Central de Derechos Humanos	CIPAC COSTA RICA
Centro de Investigación y Promoción de los Derechos Humanos de Honduras	CIPRODEH
Comité de América Latina y el Caribe para la Defensa de los Derechos de la Mujer	CLADEM
Comisión Mexicana de Defensa y Promoción de los Derechos Humanos	CMDPDH
Comisión Nacional de Derechos Humanos	CNDDHH
Confederación Unitaria de Trabajadores de Honduras	CUTH
Fundación Libertad de la Prensa	FLIP
Inter-American Commission on Human Rights	IACHR
Inter-American Court of Human Rights	IA Court
Inter-American System for the protection of human rights	IAS
Instituto de Defensa Legal	IDL
International Labor Organization	ILO
Organization of American States	OAS
Project Counselling Service	PCS
The Unit for Protection of Defenders of Human Rights in Guatemala	UDEFEGUA



Copetitioners and partner organizations

Regional and International Organizations

- Acción de los Cristianos para la Abolición de la Tortura (ACAT)
- Amazon Watch
- Amnesty International
- Asociación Americana de Juristas
- Asociación Interamericana para la Defensa del Ambiente, AIDA
- Association for the Prevention of Torture
- Comité de América Latina y el Caribe para la Defensa de los Derechos de la Mujer (Cladem)
- Federación Latinoamericana de Familiares de Detenidos Desaparecidos (Fedefam)
- Fundación para el Debido Proceso (DPLF)
- Fundación Red de Salud de las Mujeres Latinoamericanas y del Caribe
- Global Initiative for Sexuality and Human Rights Heartland Alliance for Human Needs & Human Rights
- Global Rights
- Instituto Interamericano de Derechos Humanos
- Interights
- Observatorio Latinoamericano de Prisiones
- Observatorio Internacional de Migraciones: OCIM Internacional
- Open Society Justice Initiative
- Observatorio de Políticas Públicas de Derechos Humanos en el Mercosur
- Plataforma Interamericana de Derechos Humanos, Democracia y Desarrollo (PIDHDD)
- Peace Brigades International (PBI)
- Rights and Democracy
- Red latinoamericana y caribeña por la defensa de los derechos de los niños, niñas y adolescentes (REDLAMYC)
- Save the Children International. Regional Program located in Lima
- Servicio, Paz y Justicia – América Latina (Serpaj – AL)
- Swedish Foundation for Human Rights
- Washington Office on Latin America
- Ipas Centroamérica

These are the organizations with which CEJIL has working partnerships. List is not exhaustive.

Argentina

- Alberto Bovino
- Asociación Civil por la Igualdad y la Justicia (ACIJ)
- Asociación de Comunidades Aborígenes Lhaka Honhat (Nuestra Tierra)
- Asociación de Familiares de Detenidos Desaparecidos por Razones Políticas
- Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales (CELS)
- Comisión de Familiares Víctimas Indefensas de la Violencia Social e Institucional de la República Argentina (COFAVI)
- Comisión Provincial por la Memoria – Comité contra la Tortura
- Defensoría del Tribunal de Casación de la Provincia de Buenos Aires
- Equipo Argentino de Antropología Forense
- Familiares de Detenidos Desaparecidos por Razones Políticas
- Fundación Universidad de Belgrano Dr. Avelino Porto. Facultad de Lenguas y Estudios Extranjeros
- Instituto de Derechos Humanos – Universidad Nacional de la Plata
- Instituto de Enseñanza Superior en Lenguas Vivas “Juan Ramón Fernández”
- Instituto de Estudios Comparados en Ciencias Penales y Sociales (INECIP)
- Memoria Activa
- Ministerio Público de la Defensa

Bolivia

- Asamblea Permanente por los Derechos Humanos
- Capítulo Boliviano de Derechos Humanos Democracia y Desarrollo
- Centro de Estudios Jurídicos e Investigación Social (CEJIS)
- Comunidad de Derechos Humanos
- Defensor del Pueblo
- Fundación de Apoyo al Parlamento y a la Participación Ciudadana (FUNDAPACC)
- Fundación Solón
- Oficina Jurídica para la Mujer de Cochabamba

Brazil

- Amar – Associação de Mães e Amigos das Crianças e Adolescentes em Risco
- Associação Beneficente São Martinho
- Associação Juízes Para A Democracia
- Centro de Articulação de Populações Marginalizadas (CEAP)
- Centro de Defesa da Criança e do Adolescente do Ceará (CEDECA)
- Centro de Defesa da Vida Herbert de Sousa
- Centro de Defesa dos Direitos Humanos da Arquidiocese de Porto Velho

- Centro de Defesa e Promoção dos Direitos Humanos da Arquidiocese de Fortaleza
- Centro de Direitos Humanos Henrique Trindade
- Centro Dom Hélder Câmara de Estudos e Ação Social (CENDHEC)
- Comissão de Familiares dos Mortos e Desaparecidos Políticos de São Paulo
- Comissão de Justiça e Paz da Arquidiocese de Porto Velho
- Comissão Nacional de Articulação das Comunidades Negras Rurais Quilombolas (CONAQ)
- Comissão Pastoral da Terra (CPT)
- Comissão Pró-Índio São Paulo
- Comissão Teotônio Vilela
- Conectas Direitos Humanos
- Conselho Indígena Missionário (CIMI)
- Conselho Indigenista de Roraima
- Defensoria Pública do Estado de São Paulo
- Federação de Órgãos para Assistência Social e Educacional (FASE)
- Fundação Bento Rubião
- Fundação de Defesa dos Direitos Humanos Margarida Maria Alves
- Fundação Interamericana de Defesa dos Direitos Humanos
- Fundação Projeto Travessia
- Gabinete de Assessoria Jurídica às Organizações Populares (GAJOP)
- Grupo de Mulheres Encarceradas
- Grupo Tortura Nunca Mais-Rio de Janeiro
- Instituto do Negro Padre Batista
- Movimento dos Trabalhadores Rurais Sem Terra (MST)
- Movimento Nacional de Direitos Humanos (MNDH)
- Operária Pastoral do Espírito Santo
- Pastoral Carcerária Nacional
- Projeto Legal

- Rede Social de Justiça e Direitos Humanos
- Sociedade Paraense de Defesa dos Direitos Humanos (SDDH)
- União de Mulheres de São Paulo

Canada

- Abogados sin Fronteras Canadá (ASFC)
- George Bogardi
- The League for Human Rights of the B'nai Brith – Canada

Chile

- Centro de Derechos Humanos, Universidad Nacional de Chile
- Centro de Estudios para el Desarrollo de la Mujer
- Clínica de Acciones de Interés Público de la Universidad Diego Portales
- Corporación de Derechos del Pueblo (CODEPU)
- Corporación Humanas
- Fundación de Apoyo a la Niñez y sus Derechos (ANIDE)
- La Morada
- Observatorio Ciudadano
- Universidad Central de Chile, Facultad de Ciencias Jurídicas y Sociales. Programa de Derechos Humanos.

Colombia

- Abogada Luz Marina Monzón
- Abogados German Romero y Jorge Molano
- Asociación para la Promoción Social Alternativa – Minga – Colombia

- Asociación de Detenidos y Desaparecidos de Colombia (ASFADDES)
- Coalición Contra la Vinculación de los Niños, Niñas y Jóvenes al Conflicto Armado en Colombia
- Comisión Colombiana de Juristas
- Comisión Intereclesial de Justicia y Paz
- Comité de Solidaridad con Presos Políticos
- Consultoría para los Derechos Humanos y los Desplazados (CODHES)
- Corporación Colectivo de Abogados José Alvear Restrepo
- Corporación Jurídica Libertad
- Corporación para la defensa y promoción de los derechos humanos Reiniciar
- DeJuSticia: Centro de Estudios Derecho, Justicia y Sociedad
- Familiares Colombia
- Fundación para la Libertad de Prensa (FLIP)
- Fundación Social
- Grupo Interdisciplinario de Derechos Humanos
- Norwegian Refugee Council
- Red de Empoderamiento de Mujeres de Cartagena y Bolívar
- Red Nacional de Mujeres
- Sisma Mujer
- Universidad de los Andes

Costa Rica

- Alianza por tus Derechos
- Asociación Demográfica Costarricense (ADC)
- Centro de Amigos por la Paz (CAP)
- Centro de Investigación y Promoción para América Central de Derechos Humanos (CIPAC)
- Centro Feminista de Formación y Acción (CEFEMINA)

- Centro Internacional para los Derechos Humanos de los Migrantes (CIDHEUM)
- Defensa de Niños y Niñas Internacional (DNI) - Costa Rica
- Fundación Paniamor
- Fundación para la Defensa de Derechos Humanos en Centroamérica (FUNDEHUCA)
- Iglesia Luterana Costarricense (ILCO)
- Mesa Nacional Indígena (MNI)
- Programa Jurídico Iglesia Luterana Costarricense
- Red de Organizaciones Civiles para las Migraciones de Costa Rica
- Servicio de Paz y Justicia - Costa Rica (SERPAJ-CR)
- Sindicato de Empleados del Patronato Nacional de la Infancia (SEPI)

Dominican Republic

- Centro Bono
- Colectiva Mujer y Salud
- Comisión de la Verdad
- Dominicanos/as por Derechos
- Fundación Étnica Integral (LA FEI)
- Instituto de Derechos Humanos Santo Domingo
- Mesa Nacional Para la Migración (MNM-RD)
- Movimiento de Mujeres Dominico-Haitianas (MUDHA)
- Reconoci.do
- Red de Encuentro Domínico Haitiano Jacques Viau
- Servicio Jesuita de Refugiados y Migrantes

Ecuador

- Acción Ecológica
- Asylum Access Ecuador
- Comisión Ecuánica de Derechos Humanos (CEDHU)
- Centro de Derechos Económicos y Sociales (CEDES)
- Centro de Documentación en Derechos Humanos "Segundo Montes Mozo S.J." (CSMM)
- CEPAM
- Clínica de Derechos Humanos de la Pontificia Universidad Católica de Ecuador (PUCE)
- Clínica de Derechos Humanos de la Universidad San Francisco de Quito
- Comité de Derechos Humanos de Shushufindi
- Fundación Asylum Access Ecuador
- Fundación Pachamama
- Fundación Regional de Asesoría de Derechos Humanos (INREDH)
- Mario Melo
- Pueblo Kichwa de Sarayaku

- Transexuales y Travestis
- Asociación Solidaria para Impulsar los Derechos Humanos (ASPIDH-Arcoiris)
- Colectiva Feminista para el Desarrollo Local
- Comisión de Derechos Humanos de El Salvador (CDHES)
- Concertación por el Empleo Digno en la Maquila (CEDM)
- Familia García Prieto
- Foro de Jueces Democráticos e Independientes (ADI)
- Fundación de Estudios para la Aplicación del Derecho (FESPAD)
- Grupo de Monitoreo Independiente de El Salvador (GMIES)
- Instituto de Derechos Humanos de la Universidad Centroamericana "José Simeón Cañas" (idhuca)
- Organización de Mujeres Salvadoreñas por la Paz (ORMUSA)
- Red para la Infancia y la Adolescencia (RIA)

Guatemala

- Asociación de Familiares de Detenidos-Desaparecidos de Guatemala (FAMDEGUA)
- Asociación de Salud Integral (ASI)
- Asociación el Refugio de la Niñez
- Asociación Seguridad en Democracia (SEDEM)
- Bufete Jurídico de Derechos Humanos (BDH)
- Centro de Acción Legal Ambiental y Social de Guatemala (CALAS)
- Centro de Investigación Internacional en DDHH (CIIDH)
- Centro para la Acción Legal en Derechos Humanos (CALDH)

- CERIGUA
- Colectivo de Investigaciones Sociales y Laborales (COISOLA)
- Comité de Unidad Campesina (CUC)
- Consejo de Comunidades Étnicas Runujel Junam (CERJ)
- Corporación para la Prevención de VIH (CONEVIH)
- Defensa Legal Indígena
- Familia Molina Theissen
- Fundación de Antropología Forense de Guatemala (FAFG)
- Fundación Myrna Mack (FMM)
- Fundación Para la Justicia y la Defensa de los Derechos Humanos (FUNJUDEH)
- Guatemala Human Rights Commission/USA
- Instituto de Estudios Comparados en Ciencias Penales de Guatemala (ICCPG)
- Jennifer Harbury
- María Eugenia Morales de Sierra
- Movimiento Social por la Niñez
- Oficina de Derechos Humanos del Arzobispado (ODHA)
- Organización de Apoyo a una Sexualidad Integral frente al SIDA (OASIS)
- Organización Trans Reinas de la Noche (OTRANS)
- Procuraduría de los Derechos Humanos de Guatemala (PDH)
- Red de No violencia contra las Mujeres de Guatemala (REDNOVI)
- Unidad de Protección a Defensoras y Defensores de Derechos Humanos de Guatemala (UDEFEQUA)

Haiti

- Support Group for Refugees and the Repatriated (GARR)

Honduras

- Aci participa
- Asociación Arco Iris
- Asociación de Jueces por la Democracia
- Asociación Miskita Hondureña de Buzos Lisiados (AMHBLI)
- Asociación para una Vida Mejor de Personas Infecladas y Afectadas por el VIH/ SIDA en Honduras (APUVIMEH)
- Casa Alianza - Honduras
- Centro de Derechos de Mujeres
- Centro de Investigación y Promoción de Derechos Humanos (CIPRODEH)
- Centro de Prevención y Educación en Salud Sexualidad y Sida de la Diversidad Sexual (CEPRES)
- Centro para la Prevención, Rehabilitación y Tratamiento de la Tortura en Honduras
- C-libre
- Colectivo de Mujeres Hondureñas (CO-DEMUH)
- Colectivo Unidad Color Rosa
- Comité de Familiares de Detenidos Desaparecidos de Honduras Cofadeh)
- Comunidad Gay Sampedrana
- Consejo Cívico de Organizaciones Populares e Indígenas de Honduras (COPINH)
- Equipo de Reflexión, Investigación y Comunicación (ERIC)
- Foro de Mujeres por la Vida
- Kukulcán
- Movimiento Ambientalista de Olancho
- Movimiento Amplio por la Dignidad y la Justicia
- Movimiento de Mujeres por la Paz "Visitación Padilla"
- Organización Fraternal Negra (OFRANEH)
- Red Lésbica Catrachas

Mexico

- Abogadas y Abogados para la Justicia y los Derechos Humanos, A. C.
- Artículo 19
- Asilegal
- Asociación de Familiares Detenidos-Desaparecidos (AFADEM)
- Asociación Nacional de Abogados Democráticos
- Centro de Derechos Humanos de las Mujeres - Chihuahua (CEDEHM)
- Centro de Derechos Humanos de la Montaña "Tlachinollan"
- Centro de Derechos Humanos Fray Bartolomé de las Casas
- Centro de Derechos Humanos Miguel Agustín Pro Juárez (PRODH)
- Centro Nacional de Comunicación Social (CENCOS)
- Ciudadanos en Apoyo a los Derechos Humanos, A.C.
- CIMAC Noticias
- Código DH
- Comisión de Derechos Humanos del DF
- Comisión de Solidaridad y Defensa de los Derechos Humanos (COSYDDHAC)
- Comisión Magisterial de Derechos Humanos de Oaxaca
- Comisión Mexicana de Defensa y Promoción de los Derechos Humanos (CMDPDH)
- Comité Cerezo
- Comité de Defensa Integral de Derechos Humanos
- Comité de Liberación 25 de noviembre de Oaxaca
- Familia Ochoa y Plácido
- Familiares de Víctor Pineda y Modesto Patolzin
- GIRE
- Gobixha

- Grupo de Mujeres de San Cristóbal (COLEM)
- Iniciativas para la Identidad y la Inclusión AC
- Justicia para nuestras hijas
- Liga Mexicana de Defensa de los Derechos Humanos (LIMEDDH)
- Martha Guadalupe Figueroa Mier
- Organización Indígena de Pueblos Tlapanecos AC
- Red Nacional de Organismos Civiles de Derechos Humanos "Todos los Derechos para Todos"
- Red por los Derechos de la Infancia en México
- Servicios Legales de Investigación y Estudios Jurídicos (SLIEJ)
- Taller Universitario de Derechos Humanos

Nicaragua

- ACCIÓN YA
- Casa Alianza Nicaragua
- Centro de Acción Legal para los Pueblos Indígenas (CALPI)
- Centro de Derechos Constitucionales
- Centro Jurídico de Derechos Humanos de la Costa Atlántica (CEJUDHCAN)
- Centro Nicaragüense de Derechos Humanos (Cenidh)
- Comisión Permanente de Derechos Humanos (CPDH)
- Coordinadora Nacional de la Niñez (CODENI)
- Etica y Transparencia
- Grupo Estratégico para la despenalización del aborto terapéutico
- Iniciativa por la Diversidad Sexual
- Movimiento Autónomo de Mujeres
- Movimiento contra el Abuso Sexual

- (MCAS)
- Red de desarrollo sostenible (RDS)
- Red de Mujeres Contra la Violencia
- SI MUJER
- YATAMA

Panama

- Alianza Ciudadana pro Justicia
- Asociación para la Conservación y el Desarrollo (ACD)
- Centro de Asistencia Legal Popular (Cealp)
- Centro de Incidencia Ambientales (CIAM)
- Centro de Iniciativas Democráticas (CI-DEM)
- Consejo Noruego para refugiados (NRC)
- Felix Wing
- Patria Portugal
- Rafael Pérez Jaramillo
- Red Nacional de Apoyo a la Niñez
- Santander Tristán Donoso
- Trabajadores de la Ley 25

Paraguay

- BASE Investigaciones Sociales
- Coordinación de Mujeres del Paraguay
- Coordinadora de Derechos Humanos del Paraguay (CODEHUPY)
- Coordinadora de los Derechos del Niño y Adolescente (CDIA)
- Servicio Paz y Justicia-Paraguay (Serpaj - PY)
- Tierra Viva a los Pueblos Indígenas del Chaco

Peru

- Asociación Paz y Esperanza
- Asociación Pro Derechos Humanos (APRODEH)
- Carolina Loayza Tamayo
- Centro de Asesoría Laboral del Perú (CEDAL)
- Centro de Políticas Públicas y Derechos Humanos – Perú EQUIDAD
- Comisión de Derechos Humanos (COMISEDH)
- Coordinadora Nacional de Derechos Humanos (CNDDHH)
- Estudio para la Defensa de los Derechos de la Mujer (Demus)
- Fundación Ecuménica para el Desarrollo y la Paz (FEDEPAZ)
- GUFRIDES
- Instituto de Defensa Legal (IDL)
- Instituto de Derechos Humanos de la Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú

United States of America

- Advocates for Human Rights
- American Bar Association Center for Human Rights
- American Federation of Labor Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO)
- American University Washington College of Law International Human Rights Law Clinic
- Amnesty International USA
- Boston College Post-Deportation Human Rights Project
- Boston University Civil Litigation Clinic
- Center for Constitutional Rights

- Center for Reproductive Rights
- City University of New York (CUNY) School of Law
- Columbia Law School Human Rights Clinic
- Georgetown University Law Clinic
- Gibbs Houston Pauw
- Immigration Equality
- Global Rights
- Harvard Law School International Human Rights Clinic
- Human Rights Watch
- Latin American Working Group
- Mayer Brown
- National Coalition for Haitian Rights
- National Day Labor Organizing Network (NDLON)
- National Security Archives
- New Orleans Workers' Center for Racial Justice
- New York City Bar Cyrus R. Vance Center for International Justice
- Physicians for Human Rights
- Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice & Human Rights
- Stanford Law School Immigrant Rights Clinic
- U.S. Office on Colombia
- Universidad Interamericana de Puerto Rico Clínica de Derechos Humanos
- University of California Berkeley School of Law-Boalt Hall International Human Rights Law Clinic
- University of Miami Human Rights Clinic
- University of Notre Dame, Human Rights Program
- University of Texas School of Law, International Human Rights Clinic
- University of Virginia School of Law, International Human Rights Law Clinic
- Washington & Lee University
- Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA)

- Women's Refugee Commission
- Yale Law School Allard K. Lowenstein International Human Rights Law Clinic

Uruguay

- Centro de Archivos y Acceso a la Información Pública (CAinfo)
- CRSYSOL Asociación de ex pres@s polític@s de Uruguay
- Hijos Uy
- Observatorio de Políticas Públicas de Derechos Humanos del Mercosur
- Servicio Paz y Justicia–Uruguay (SERPAJ–UY)

Venezuela

- A.C. Espacio Público
- Acción Solidaria
- Carlos Ayala Corao
- Centro de Derechos Humanos de la Universidad Católica Andrés Bello
- Comisión Justicia y Paz de Derechos Humanos del Estado de Aragua
- Comité de Familiares de las Víctimas de los Sucesos de Febrero-Marzo 1989 (COFAVIC)
- Espacio Público
- Observatorio Venezolano de Prisiones
- Pedro Nikken
- Programa Venezolano de Educación-Acción en Derechos Humanos (PROVEA)
- Red de Apoyo por la Justicia y la Paz
- Sinergia, Asociación Venezolana de Organizaciones de Sociedad Civil
- Una Ventana a la Libertad
- Vicaría de Derechos Humanos de Caracas