



Triennial
Impact Report
2014 / 2016

CEJIL 

Defending
RIGHTS *to change*
REALITIES



Dear friends,

Thank you for supporting our human rights work in the Americas. CEJIL views the struggle for justice and equality as intrinsically linked, and our strategies over the past three years have addressed these challenges on multiple levels.

CEJIL now represents over 10,000 victims in human rights tribunals, bringing their voices to the international stage with the help of partner organizations, journalists, academics, and social movements. These individuals have overcome great adversity, including enslavement, expulsion from traditional lands, forced sterilization, and the loss of loved ones to forced disappearance to demand their rights. We work shoulder to shoulder with victims and fellow human rights defenders to transform our societies.

Through our work, CEJIL has found that addressing inequality is a social and political process that requires a committed core to strategize, organize, and mobilize for change. However, we also know that this is not enough. With all our projects, we seek to build bridges within the human rights community and beyond. Our work includes multidisciplinary initiatives that address inequality with new allies and stakeholders. You can read in this report about the GQUAL Campaign, to increase the representation of women in positions of power, the La Esperanza Protocol, to protect human rights defenders, and the Americas Network on Nationality and Statelessness.

Over the next three years, we hope to solidify these advances on behalf of human rights defenders, victims, and social movements, and forge new alliances. In the face of new and persistent challenges from governments, corporations, and criminal organizations, CEJIL will continue its path forward for the promotion of human rights throughout the region. Our next efforts will be defined not only by these challenges, but also by the opportunities we see on the horizon. Across the Americas, women and societies are rejecting femicide, students are demanding access to education, civil society is protesting against corruption, indigenous peoples and their allies are mobilizing to protect the environment, and online activists are defining the reach of digital rights.

We dedicate this report to several exemplary colleagues: to Berta Caceres, for her unwavering fight for the rights of her people in Honduras; to the family of Marco Antonio Molina, disappeared at age 14, for their principled persistence in the search for truth and accountability; and to the activists at the Comissão Pastoral da Terra for their work combating trafficking and slavery. They inspire all of us at CEJIL, and thousands of others, and we are honored to have accompanied them through the years.

We hope that you join us in continuing to make our work possible.



Warm wishes,

Viviana Krsticevic
Executive Director

Washington DC, December 2017

A person with dark, curly hair is shown in profile, holding a protest sign. The sign is white with a red border and contains text in both English and Spanish. The background is slightly blurred, showing an orange wall and a Christmas tree.

DIGNITY
La Dignidad
JUSTICE
La Justicia
EQUALITY
La Igualdad
For ALL
Para TOD@S



What is **CEJIL**?

We are an independent non-profit advocacy organization of human rights defenders working to promote the full enjoyment of human rights in the Americas. For over 25 years, we have strived to shape a hemisphere where the rights of all are respected. We seek to reduce inequality, discrimination, and violence by strengthening democracies, protecting and promoting human rights, and fighting the region's rampant impunity.

DEFEND

Defend victims of human rights violations to change their realities.

Using strategic litigation, as well as political and media advocacy, CEJIL defends those most vulnerable to human rights violations before the Inter-American System of Human Rights (IAS). We bring the voices of victims to the international stage and address emblematic issues of human rights to create changes in policies and dismantle historical obstacles in the path towards truth and justice.

INFORM

Knowledge management and capacity building for human rights defenders.

To strengthen the reach and impact of the regional human rights movement, CEJIL creates, compiles, and shares information through workshops, publications, and trainings with human rights defenders, journalists, members of the judiciary and youth groups. By building the capacity of key actors, we are expanding access to international human rights law mechanisms.

CONVENE

Accelerate initiatives that strengthen the regional human rights infrastructure.

CEJIL works towards an efficient and collaborative human rights system that responds to the needs of the region's victims of human rights abuses. We convene local groups, activists and organizations in order to identify the most pressing human rights issues, and collaborate with local, national, and international media to raise public awareness and pressure relevant actors to promote public policy changes at the national and international level. To increase the impact of the IAS and international human rights law, CEJIL coordinates coalitions and leads efforts promoting dialogue and cooperation within civil society and key IAS actors.





Over the last 25 years, CEJIL has brought thousands of victims before the Inter-American System of Human Rights. CEJIL has raised the voices and stories of those that have been ignored and deprived of justice in their countries, who turn to international mechanisms in their search for redress.

CEJIL works in a network of local civil society to solidify a regional human rights movement that adequately represents those it aims to defend and protect. CEJIL aims to ensure compliance with IAS decisions and achieve significant policy changes to promote a locally sustainable foundation for the protection of human rights long after a case has been decided. Working hand in hand with human rights defenders, CEJIL ensures the effectiveness of international law and human rights mechanisms to change turbulent realities at the local level.



Impact

CEJIL currently represents more than 10,000 victims of human rights violations across the continent in over 20 countries, from the United States to the southern cone of Latin America.

CEJIL's efforts have led to prominent changes in public policy in over 10 countries, including those with historical legacies of violence and impunity. With more than 200 ongoing cases before the IAS and numerous granted protection measures, CEJIL's beneficiaries include human rights defenders, indigenous peoples, journalists and children. On a daily basis, CEJIL works directly with victims of state aggression, racial discrimination, and gender violence, as well as vulnerable populations frequently ignored by governments, such as indigenous peoples, LGBTQI, and economically unstable communities. The stories of these victims are at the heart of CEJIL's work and motivate our team to push towards truth, justice, and reparations for those who have suffered severe human rights violations in the region.



Tribute to the victims of the El Mozote Massacre

Impact

Fighting against Impunity for Grave Human Rights Violations in El Salvador

In partnership with Tutela Legal in El Salvador, CEJIL advocates for the victims of the El Mozote Massacre, the largest registered mass killing in Latin America. CEJIL's work with the victims before the IAS led to the overturning of El Salvador's amnesty law, and the reopening of the criminal case against the perpetrators. As a result, 13 former members of the military were charged with crimes against humanity. The El Mozote case has led efforts to strengthen the rule of law, grant victims reparations, and end the cycle of impunity in El Salvador.

Combating racial discrimination and police violence in Brazil

In Brazil, CEJIL stands with victims of trafficking, slave labor, and police brutality, and works with local civil society to dismantle structural discrimination and inequality. CEJIL's efforts have led to rulings by the Inter-American Court against Brazil, paving the way towards justice for thousands of victims of state-sanctioned violence in the country.

Impact

Promoting Freedom of Expression in Mexico

In Mexico, CEJIL's efforts shed light on the issue of 'indirect censorship' affecting journalists and human rights defenders across the country. In 2016, CEJIL presented a thematic hearing before the Inter-American Commission on restrictions of the freedom of expression and access to information in Mexico. Mexican journalist Carmen Aristegui, who was sanctioned by the Mexican government for her independent reporting, and the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression Edison Lanza participated.

Protecting the rights of indigenous peoples and land defenders across the region

CEJIL defends indigenous peoples and environmental defenders across the region. As part of this work, CEJIL promotes the right to free, prior, and informed consultation. In Nicaragua, CEJIL and CEJUDHCAN represents indigenous peoples at risk of losing their territory and pressures the Nicaraguan State to work collaboratively to resolve the conflict. CEJIL also works with indigenous leaders to defend their right to social protest, free of discrimination and criminalization.



BERTA LIVES

WORLD



BANK

Impact

Improving Protection for Human Rights Defenders in Honduras

CEJIL's collaborative efforts with Honduran civil society resulted in new legislation that recognizes the right of all people to promote and protect human rights, and clarifies the government's obligations to protect this right. The law recognizes the binding nature of protection measures ordered by the IAS and requires the state to effectively implement them, highlighting the ability of the IAS to positively impact national policies.



Changing the realities of women in Mexico

CEJIL works in Mexico against impunity for human rights violations committed by the military. Years of litigation and advocacy efforts by CEJIL and Mexican civil society with the Me'phaa indigenous people in the Mexican state of Guerrero on cases of rape, disappearances and other human rights violations resulted in changes to the Military Code. While the legislation has yet to fully comply with international standards, it now allows for

human rights violations committed by members of the military against civilians to be tried in the civilian justice system.



A

Victim-Centered Approach

CEJIL, in partnership with local organizations, defends and represents victims of human rights violations in their search for truth and justice. These are a few of their stories.

Berta Caceres

The murder of indigenous leader Berta Caceres in 2016 remains in impunity in Honduras. Berta, a beneficiary of protection measures requested by CEJIL and her organization COPINH, fought for the rights of the Lenca people. Her message in the defense of human rights was heard around the world. CEJIL continues to advocate nationally and internationally for a thorough and transparent investigation. Thus far, these efforts are being led by The International Advisory Group of Experts (GAIPE, by its Spanish acronym) to bring those responsible to justice.

Victim-Centered Approach

Marco Antonio Molina Theissen

CEJIL's steadfast efforts in the search for Marco Antonio Molina Theissen, one of the 40,000 forcibly disappeared victims in Guatemala's internal conflict, has resulted in the detention of four high-ranking military officers. These men, until recently considered untouchable, face charges of crimes against humanity, forced disappearance, and aggravated rape and assault. Marco Antonio's story exemplifies the systematic terror that generated human rights and has helped strengthen the rule of law and the fight against impunity in Guatemala.



Kenneth Nay Anzualdo

CEJIL's efforts for justice and accountability in cases of forced disappearance in Peru led to the conviction of high ranking military members in connection to the forced disappearance of Kenneth Anzualdo in 1975. CEJIL's efforts on such cases contributed to the approval of new legislation in Peru for the victims of forced disappearance.



New Initiatives

GQUAL Campaign CEJIL launched a global initiative in 2015 to achieve gender parity in international tribunals and bodies. With support from various distinguished actors that shape international law and human rights, the campaign focuses on candidate selection processes to increase the participation of women across international bodies; generates research and debates on the issue; and proposes international standards

and mechanisms to guarantee equality and non-discrimination. In its first two years, the Campaign gained several high profile supporters across the region, including Presidents and Vice-Presidents, and has advocated for gender parity before international mechanisms such as the United Nations and the Organization of American States.

For more information, visit:

<http://www.gqualcampaign.org>



Americas Network on Nationality and Statelessness

In efforts to deepen CEJIL’s fight against regional statelessness, CEJIL—in partnership with the Open Society Justice Initiative—launched the Americas Network on Nationality and Statelessness (Red ANA, for its acronym in Spanish) in 2014. By sharing best practices among member organizations, Red ANA contributes to the eradication of statelessness in the region and globally. In only three years, Red ANA has solidified its position as a leading regional and international network on statelessness and nationality.

For more information, visit:
<http://www.americasns.org/>

La Esperanza Protocol In 2016, CEJIL launched a project to develop an international protocol to determine the legal obligations to prevent, investigate and provide reparations for threats made against human rights defenders. With this Protocol, CEJIL aims to respond to the critical impact of threats on human rights defenders, and strengthen the capacity of states to protect, investigate and empower those who are continually under threat for defending human rights in the region.

Americas Network on Nationality and Statelessness

For a right to nationality for all



Innovative Communication and Knowledge Management Efforts

CEJIL is constantly searching for innovative methods to ensure the proper protection and full enjoyment of human rights across the region.





Story-Map Kichwa people of Sarayaku in Defense of their Territory: By merging technology with the promotion of human rights, the Kichwa people of Sarayaku in Ecuador demonstrated how the State has parceled off their territory through an interactive story-map. CEJIL, the Sarayaku people and the Amazon Conservation Team mapped the quarantine zone of buried explosives left from oil extraction attempts, and showed its overlap with the Sarayaku people's primary activity areas, posing a serious risk to the community's survival and preventing them from enjoying full and free use of their territory. CEJIL believes the future of the human rights movement lies in strengthening the connection between the digital and human rights communities. **For more information, visit:** <http://amazonteam.org/maps/sarayaku-en/>

Inter-American Case Law Analyzer To enable access to tools and information regarding the IAS and its jurisprudence, CEJIL—in partnership with HURIDOCs—created the Inter-American Case Law Analyzer. With this tool,

the user is able to access systemized information regarding cases and protective measures issued by the Inter-American Court and Commission. Making this information accessible to wider audiences expands the number of people with access to the IAS. **To use the Case Law Analyzer, visit:** <https://sidh.cejil.org/>



Visual Messaging and Media

CEJIL increasingly employs visual media to broaden its audience and increase accountability for grave human rights violations across the Americas. In forging new partnerships with artists and journalists in the region, CEJIL has committed to the promotion of human rights through a new visual language.



In the Press

In the last three years, CEJIL was mentioned nearly 5,000 times in the press, including Opinion pieces written by CEJIL staff, stories by CEJIL's partners, and cites in news articles. Below you will find some of CEJIL's most popular headlines in recent years, in newspapers ranging from Reuters, Huffington Post, The Guardian, The Washington Post, Al-Jazeera, and El Pais.

Remembrance and Resistance in Peru: A Pardon for Fujimori?

07/20/2017 10:31 am ET

OPINION | UNITED STATES | 22 SEPTEMBER 2017

Taking a step against US impunity in Guantanamo

The fight against impunity in Guantanamo Bay has reached the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.

Brazil ordered to pay \$5m to workers formerly enslaved on cattle ranch

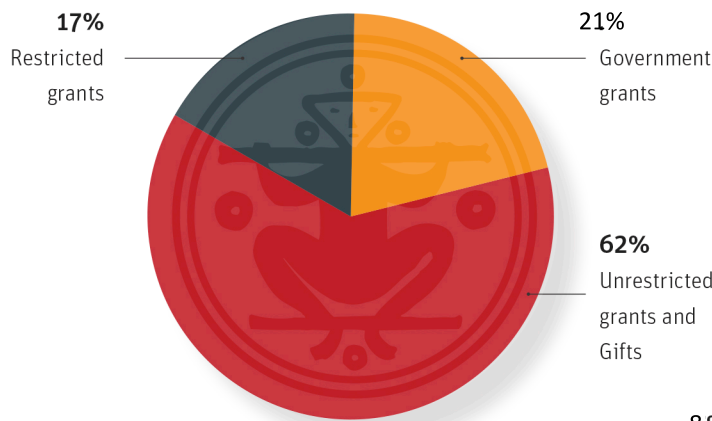
Inter-American Court of Human Rights rules Brazil failed to prevent modern slavery, over workers rescued in official raids between 1988 and 2000

Why is Honduras the world's deadliest country for environmentalists?

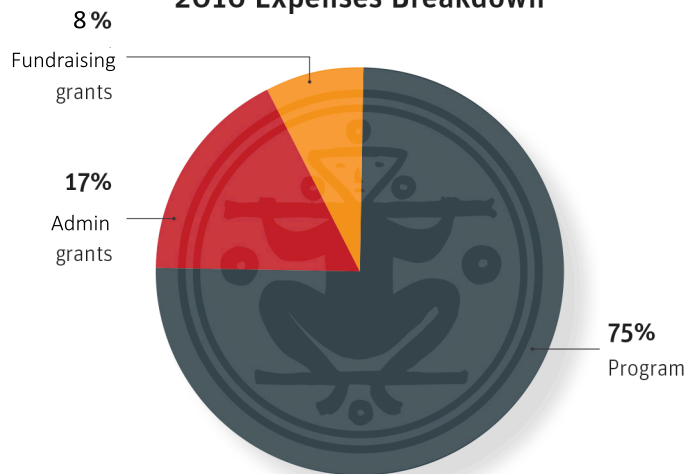
The environment is the new battleground for human rights, and activists are getting caught in the crossfire – particularly in Honduras, where two were killed last month

Financials

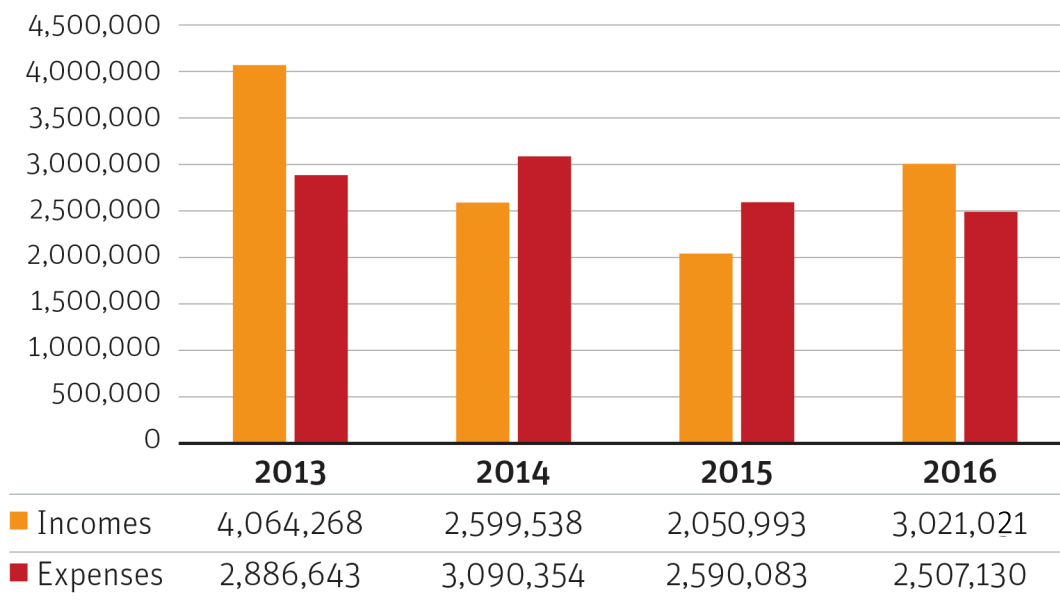
2016 Contributions Breakdown



2016 Expenses Breakdown



Revenue/Expenses Trend 2013/2016



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CEJIL's work has been made possible thanks to the generous contributions of our donors within the period of this report, as well as anonymous donors.

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¡Con VIDA lo queremos!

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CEJIL accepts donations from individuals and institutions

To Donate, Please Visit

www.cejil.org

Fellowship and Internship Programs

CEJIL's work would not be possible without the dedication of our committed fellows and interns.

For more information, please visit cejil.org/en/pasantias-en-cejil

Follow and Share on Social Media

CEJIL is constantly sharing its efforts across the region on social media.



twitter.com/cejil



www.facebook.com/CEJIL/



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

The logo features the word "CEJIL" in a red serif font, followed by a circular emblem containing the number "25" in a stylized, golden font, representing the organization's 25th anniversary.

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