

# International Commission of Jurists Annual Report 2015



**icj**

International  
Commission  
of Jurists



## Vision

A world in which a just, democratic and peaceful society is achieved through the rule of law, the arbitrary exercise of power is prevented, rights and freedoms are expanded, and social justice is embraced.

A world in which everyone is able, without discrimination, to realize and exercise his or her civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights, and in which the rights of the most marginalized are addressed.

A world in which everyone is equal before the law and protected from human rights violations by the law and in practice, where those in power are held accountable for human rights violations, where justice is administered in accordance with due process of law, where victims have access to effective remedies and justice, and where those who come before the courts receive a fair trial and never face the death penalty.

## Mission

To work for the progressive development and effective implementation of international human rights law and international humanitarian law, and to ensure that such law is utilized effectively for the protection of all people, including the most vulnerable.

To promote and extend the rule of law as a dynamic concept through which civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights are safeguarded and advanced.

To advance the understanding that the rule of law requires that States observe the principle of separation of powers, by establishing effective executive, judicial and legislative institutions and measures that serve as checks and balances, to protect the human rights of all people.

To assist judges, lawyers and prosecutors, acting under the highest ethical standards and professional integrity, to be independent, impartial, and free to carry out their professional duties.

## Table of Contents

<b>Foreword</b>	7
<b>ICJ Global Reach</b>	11
<b>ICJ Strategic Directions</b>	15
Access to Justice for All	16
Accountability for Human Rights Violations	23
Independence of Judges and Lawyers	29
ICJ's Advocacy at the United Nations, on Global Security and the Rule of Law	32
<b>The ICJ-European Institutions Office</b>	41
<b>Communications</b>	45
<b>Financial Report</b>	49
<b>List of Activities</b>	55
<b>Acknowledgments</b>	67
<b>Photographs &amp; Impressum</b>	70





# Foreword



## Foreword



While the ICJ continues to engage with and often lead on the development and implementation of regional and international human rights standards, the ICJ is witnessing an attack on these standards. Today, there are signs of a global backlash against human rights protections that has gone beyond a reduced government commitment to provide support and has instead, in some quarters, transformed into active hostility to these rights. Political and economic trends are undermining human rights standards so that millions have become more, rather than less, vulnerable. Inequality and discrimination are becoming more entrenched. With increasingly narrowing support, this is a difficult time to be operating in human rights protection.

The ICJ has worked hard to press in the UN and other inter-governmental fora for better protections and clearer standards aimed at ensuring accountability and access to justice for everyone. Last year, the ICJ made a number of private and public submissions to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women as it elaborated a new General Recommendation on women's access to justice, adopted in 2015. The vast majority of the ICJ's suggestions were reflected in the final text, including its recommendation that the Committee address discrimination against women on grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity.

Complementing its work at the international level the ICJ has also been working with women judges, lawyers and human rights defenders in Africa and the ASEAN region, addressing issues such as sexual and gender-based violence and judicial decision-making, to ensure that women are not denied access to justice by laws that are implemented in ways that are inherently discriminatory.

The ICJ continues to be concerned about judicial independence and propriety and whilst it continues to support the former, it is also concerned where acts of judicial impropriety are rampant, and judges are not held accountable for abuses of judicial position and mis-application of the law that undermines human rights protection. The ICJ undertook a mission to Central America to investigate ongoing threats to independent judges in Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras. In 2015, a report was released about judicial impropriety observed in Swaziland, making a number of recommendations for improvement. In December of last year the ICJ's Annual Geneva Forum focused on judicial accountability, the conclusions of which will be made available in 2016.

In 2015, the ICJ continued its work in monitoring the counter-terrorism measures introduced by some States and highlighting issues that raise human rights concerns and it has also focused on the issue of human rights in the digital age. The ICJ has disseminated a number of country-specific position papers addressing particular issues in national counter-terrorism legislation, such as laws using overly broad definitions of terrorism that have the potential to result in the suppression of legitimate expressions of opinion guaranteed by human rights and the denial of fair trial proceedings. The organization has also responded to the development of the Council of Europe's

draft protocol on "Foreign Terrorist Fighters", which carries a number of significant risks for the protection of human rights, by submitting recommendations to ensure existing human rights protections are not compromised by the protocol.

The ICJ's work in 2015 continued to focus on the most marginalized groups in society that, already vulnerable to rights violations, are the first to suffer from a weakening of rights protection. The ICJ has conducted missions to Peru and Colombia to assess the impact of mining industries and megaprojects on the economic, social and cultural rights of the communities who live in these areas. In 2015, the ICJ also undertook field missions and trained monitors to assess the effectiveness of disaster relief provision to Nepalese communities affected by the devastating earthquakes.

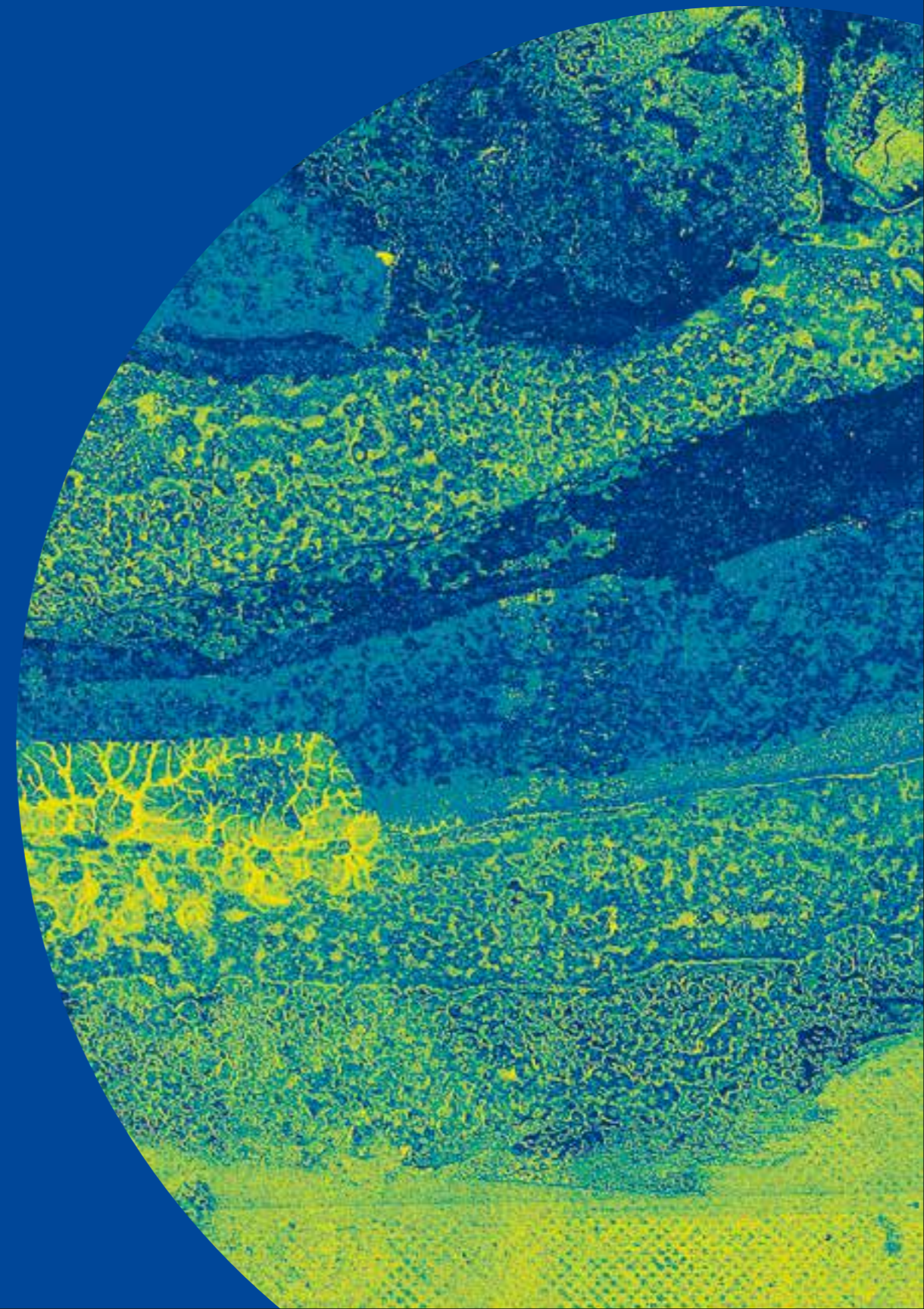
The ICJ has also continued to work on issues of enforced disappearances. In 2015, a new ICJ Practitioners' Guide on enforced disappearances and extrajudicial executions, available in both Spanish and English, was launched in Peru. The ICJ also conducted a two-day regional conference in Asia that was held in Pakistan and also included stakeholders from India, Nepal, the Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

2016 marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the two International Covenants on Civil and Political Rights and on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the ICJ is committed to raising awareness of the global backsliding on these Covenants that has been evidenced in recent years. These Covenants should provide a foundation for protection of the most vulnerable groups and individuals. Today we are seeing a migration crisis that affects every continent, however States are increasingly introducing measures to deny these vulnerable groups and persons access to even the most fundamental of rights. The ICJ has actively engaged on the issues facing refugees and other migrants in Europe since 2011 and as the refugee crisis has grown, the ICJ has expanded its focus to other regions that are struggling with this crisis, particularly the Middle East and North Africa. At the end of 2016 the ICJ will hold its annual Geneva Forum, bringing together legal experts from around the world, on this theme.

In the current political context of decreasing support for human rights the ICJ's work over the next year will be very challenging indeed. However it is also clear that this work is now more essential than ever. The ICJ is fortunate to have committed Commissioners and staff who, despite the difficult period we are facing, are simply giving more of themselves and their superb professional skills to advance the work of the ICJ. I am grateful to be able to count on their continued support, as I am for that of those friends of the ICJ, without whom we could not operate.

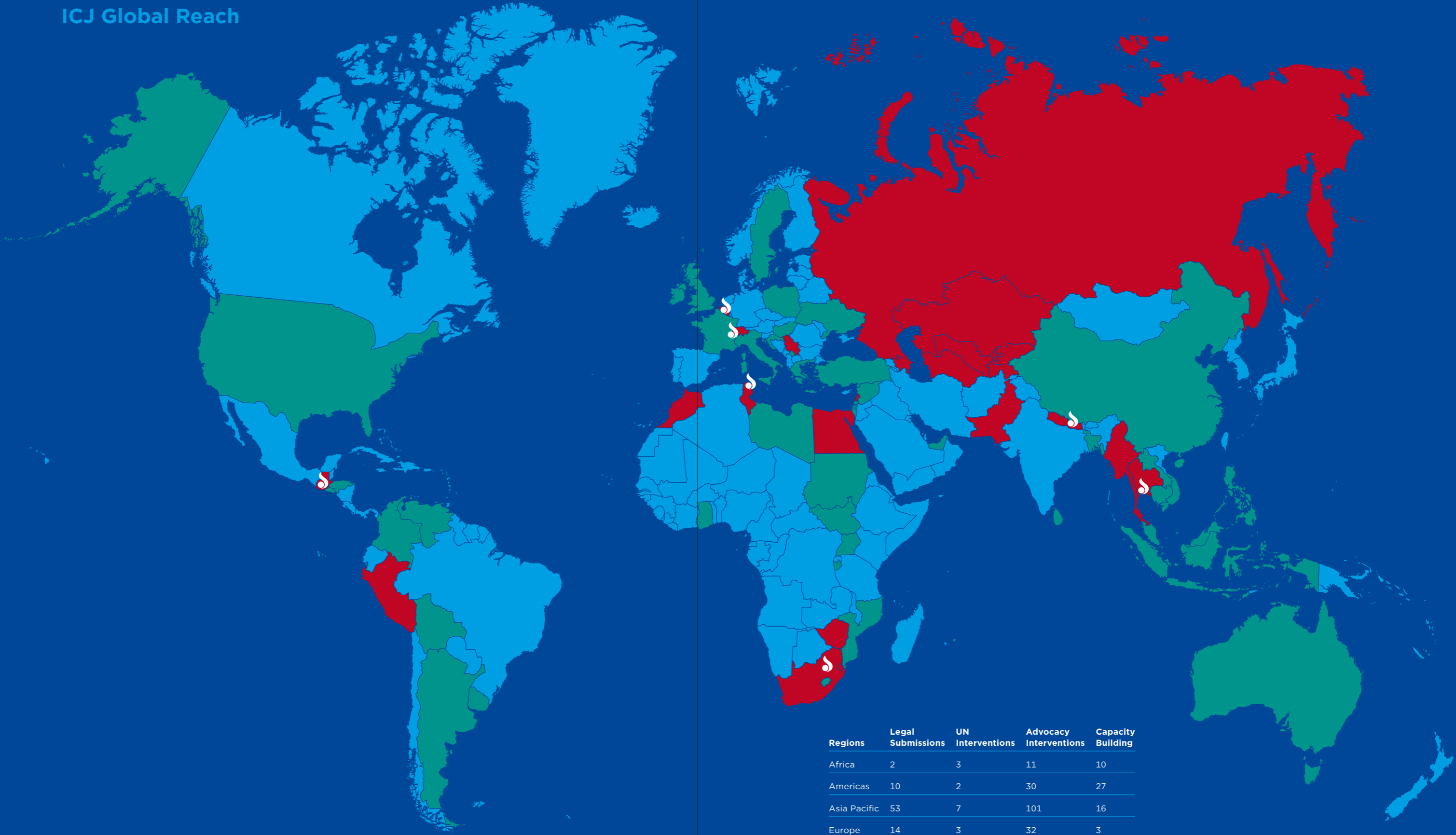
Professor Sir Nigel Rodley  
ICJ President

# ICJ Global Reach








# ICJ Global Reach



Regions	Legal Submissions	UN Interventions	Advocacy Interventions	Capacity Building
Africa	2	3	11	10
Americas	10	2	30	27
Asia Pacific	53	7	101	16
Europe	14	3	32	3
MENA	0	4	28	5
Global	10	20	37	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>69</b>

 ICJ Offices  
 Countries where ICJ has ongoing projects  
 Countries where ICJ carried out interventions in 2015





# ICJ Strategic Directions



# 1 Access to Justice for All

The ICJ promotes access to justice, particularly for poor, marginalized and discriminated groups, who find it most difficult to realize their rights. During 2015, there was a specific focus on access to justice in the area of economic, social and cultural rights (ESCR). At national level, the ICJ facilitated reform of laws and policies in line with international standards and provided advice to lawyers and civil society partners.

In many countries, human rights defenders continue to face harassment and persecution. For example, the ICJ throughout the year has drawn attention to the deteriorating situation in Egypt, where the judiciary has been implicated in the arbitrary sentencing of lawyers and other human rights defenders.

In 2015, the ICJ continued groundbreaking programmes on women's access to justice and on discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity.

The ICJ also highlighted the situation of migrants and refugees and urged the European institutions to take coordinated action to protect the human rights of migrants and refugees arriving in Europe on a large scale.

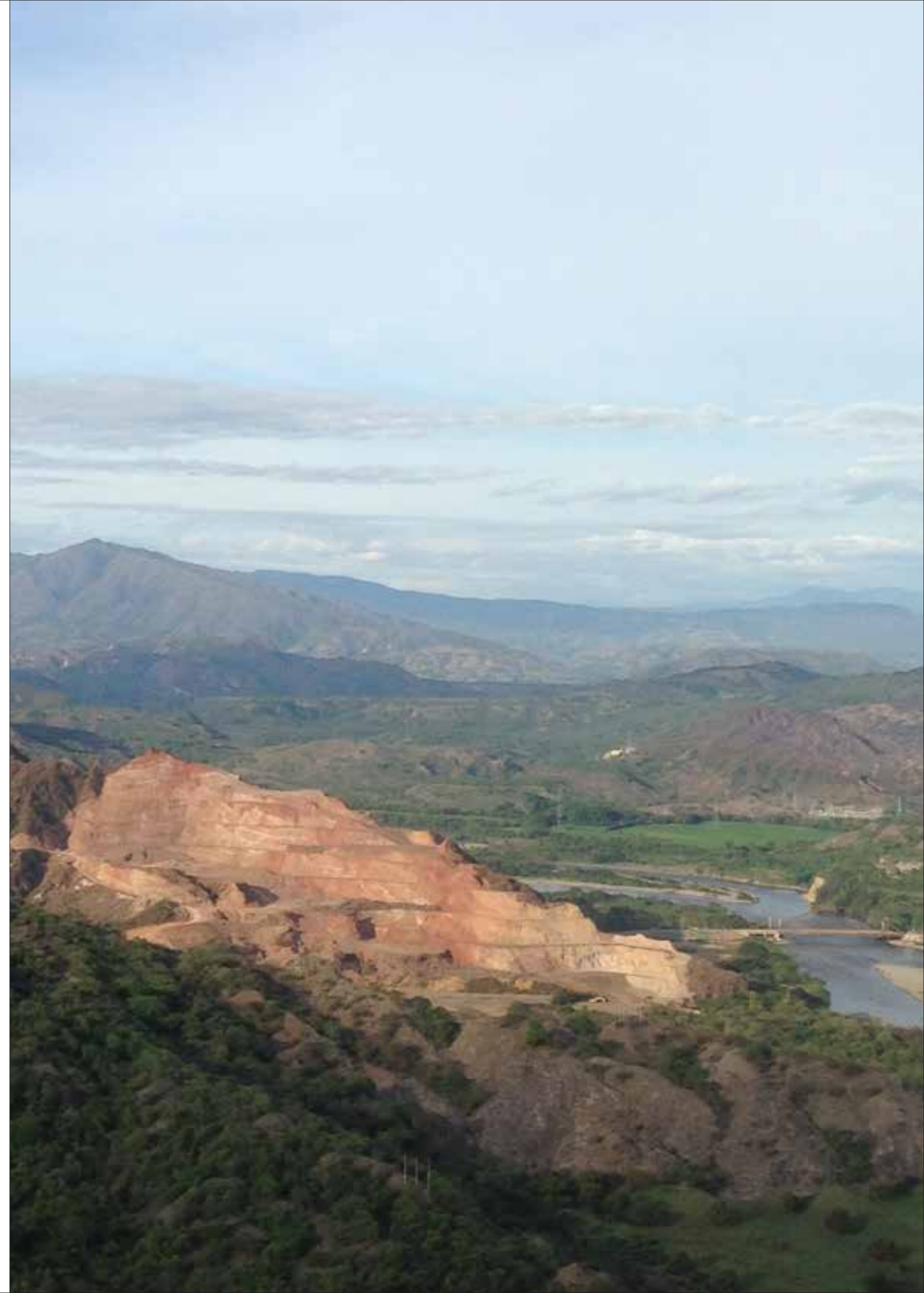
## 1.1 Andean countries: human rights in the context of business operations

The ICJ has now acquired considerable experience in the area of business enterprises and human rights, through a combination of research, fact-finding missions, advocacy and legal suits to set important precedents in test cases, as well as carrying out training on the issue.

In November, the ICJ carried out a fact-finding mission to Peru together with the Association for the Promotion of Human Rights (APRODEH) to assess the impact of mining industries on the ESCR of local communities, in particular subsistence farmers and indigenous peoples. The delegation met with Peruvian government authorities, representatives of mining companies, human rights organizations, trade unions and community leaders.

During the mission, the ICJ was able to verify the increasing number of violent conflicts and social protests that have occurred as a consequence of the harmful impact of mining operations. The mission was concerned that legislation intended to facilitate foreign investment has led to the deterioration of human rights protection because social and environmental standards have been lowered. The mission also expressed concern at the alleged use of lethal force, by the security forces, to suppress demonstrations in mining areas.

Also in November, an ICJ mission visited the El Quimbo hydroelectric project in Huila, Colombia in order to view first hand the impact of the project on local communities. This project will affect the livelihoods of 500 families in six municipalities in Huila by changing the course







of the Magdalena River and flooding the area behind the dam. The mission met with the local communities and the ENDESA-ENEL consortium building the dam, as well as local NGOs and government authorities.

During the mission, the Spanish version of the *ICJ's Practitioners' Guide No 8 on adjudicating ESCR at national level* was launched at an event in Bogota. Members of the mission included the ICJ staff and Philippe Texier and Belisário dos Santos Junior, the ICJ Commissioners for France and Brazil respectively.

The main findings and recommendations on the situation of ESCR and the rise of social conflicts as a result of megaprojects in Peru and Colombia will be the subject of reports to be released in 2016.

### 1.2 Guatemala: defending the rights of indigenous peoples

The ICJ continues to provide legal advice and training programmes for indigenous community leaders and human rights defenders in Guatemala. Successive governments have promoted economic development policies based on extractive industries and energy projects without the free, prior and informed consent of the affected indigenous communities. There has been a marked increase in the criminalization of social protest and persecution of community leaders and human rights defenders.

In Guatemala, the ICJ works with the Association of Mayan Lawyers and Notaries (ANMAG) in a case concerning the mining operations at La Puya, San Pedro Ayampuc, where there are concerns about the possible contamination of local water supplies. The ICJ and ANMAG presented a suit against the company in the Constitutional Court for failure to consult with the local community. The community leaders organized a walk from La Puya to the capital in order to petition for a meeting with the Judges of the Constitutional Court. The petitioners alleged that the Mayor and Municipality of La Puya had failed in their duty, as there was no construction licence issued, no prior consultation with the community and serious risk of environmental harm. In July, the judge ruled in favour of the local community. The local municipal council ordered the company to halt the construction of the mining camp and the ICJ has requested the ombudsman to verify the implementation of the ruling. The ICJ continues to monitor the case.

The ICJ also held a series of workshops for indigenous community leaders and human rights defenders on how to use the law to defend their rights by taking test cases to set legal precedents. During April, two workshops were held with indigenous peoples affected by megaprojects. A collective legal case concerning human rights defenders, who have been arbitrarily detained as a result of their work in relation to megaprojects, is now under preparation.

On 25-26 November, the fifth international workshop on strategic litigation was held in Guatemala City with the participation of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), as part of a broader strategy to promote and defend human rights, with a particular focus on land rights of indigenous peoples.

### 1.3 East and Southern African lawyers trained to defend victims of human rights abuses by business enterprises

From 22-24 June, the ICJ held a workshop in Zimbabwe for the East and Southern African regions to train a group of lawyers to undertake strategic litigation and advocacy before national or regional courts in the interest of victims of human rights abuses by business enterprises. There was a special focus on children's rights as a particularly vulnerable group. Workshop participants identified four potential cases for litigation on business abuses that are currently being followed up.

From 24-25 June, a follow-up workshop was held in partnership with the Law Society of Zimbabwe (LSZ) to train lawyers and civil society representatives on ESCR, in the light of the 2013 Constitution that now includes a comprehensive section on ESCR (picture page 21). The LSZ will now be able to bring legal cases to defend the rights of the most marginalized and disadvantaged, on issues such as access to housing.

In September, the ICJ together with UNICEF published a guide for States on children's rights and business that offers best practice examples of how to protect children's rights in the context of business operations.

### 1.4 Indonesia: advocacy on the death penalty

Since the inauguration of President Joko Widodo in October 2014, there have been a number of executions for drug-related offences. The ICJ opposes capital punishment in all cases without exception.

In May 2015, the ICJ sent a letter to the Indonesian President urging him to grant Filipino national Mary Jane Veloso permanent reprieve from execution and to impose a moratorium on all executions, with a view to abolishing the death penalty. This letter was followed up with an opinion piece in one of the main newspapers in Indonesia, the Jakarta Post, on the same issue.

On 4-5 June, the ICJ held a workshop with the Commission for the Disappeared and Victims of Violence (KontraS) for 20 lawyers on safeguards for fair trials in death penalty cases. On 1 August, the ICJ convened a roundtable discussion on the death penalty. The participants agreed to develop a list of lawyers who were legally competent to take up death penalty cases. As a result, there is now a list of 25 lawyers who are prepared to work pro-bono on cases where defendants are facing possible death sentences.

### 1.5 Pakistan: blasphemy laws deny human rights and undermine the rule of law

In November, the ICJ published a report *On Trial: the Implementation of Pakistan's Blasphemy Laws* that documents the systematic and widespread violations of the right to a fair trial in cases concerning blasphemy offences.



Under Pakistan's blasphemy laws, words, representations, imputations, innuendos, or insinuations, which directly or indirectly lead to "defiling the sacred name of the Holy Prophet" are criminal offences with a mandatory death penalty. Similar laws exist in Myanmar and India.

The ICJ report analyses over 100 court judgments from 1986–2015, and its findings are also based on interviews with defendants in blasphemy cases, their families, judges, lawyers, police officials and human rights activists.

The report found that blasphemy proceedings suffer from procedural irregularities, and undue delay, of up to three to five years. Individuals accused of blasphemy are frequently denied bail, even though they meet the legal requirements, and are kept in prolonged solitary confinement. The ICJ made a number of recommendations to address the defects in these laws and to minimize their misuse.

#### **1.6 Discrimination and human rights violations related to sexual orientation and/or gender identity (SOGI)**

In January, the Irish government introduced the Gender Recognition Bill in the Irish Parliament, following a long-standing case brought by Dr Lydia Foy who had challenged the Irish authorities' failure to issue her with a new birth certificate reflecting legal recognition of her female gender. With the assistance of pro bono Irish lawyers, the ICJ supported this landmark case by filing written submissions concerning the right to an effective legal remedy in national law under the European Convention of Human Rights.

The ICJ also made submissions to the European Court of Human Rights concerning asylum claims rejected by domestic authorities: both *A.N. v. France* and *A.T. v. Sweden* arose from rejected asylum applications in France and Sweden, respectively, in which the individuals concerned had alleged a well-founded fear of persecution in their country of origin, namely Senegal and Iran respectively, based on their same-sex sexual orientation. In its interventions, among other things, the ICJ urged the European Court of Human Rights to interpret the European Convention on Human Rights in light of international refugee law.

In September, the ICJ filed another joint third-party intervention before the European Court of Human Rights. This intervention focused on the Contracting Parties' obligation under the European Convention on Human Rights to take account of the particular risks that the detention of asylum-seekers entail, for example when deciding to detain those who might have been exposed to abuse and/or may risk violence and discrimination on account of their sexual orientation while in detention.

#### **1.7 Access to justice for women victims of sexual and gender-based violence**

The ICJ has taken a two-pronged approach to address sexual and gender-based violence by drawing awareness to and enhancing the regional and international standards that should protect a woman's





access to justice; and by working closely with the judges, lawyers and human rights defenders whose role it is to ensure these standards are implemented.

In April, the ICJ released *Sexual Violence Against Women: Eradicating Harmful Gender Stereotypes and Assumptions in Laws and Practice*, a paper written to support those involved in law enforcement to ensure effective criminal justice responses to sexual violence against women.

In July, the ICJ organized a regional meeting in Swaziland, bringing together judges, lawyers and human rights defenders from across sub-Saharan Africa to discuss sexual and gender-based violence in the context of fair trial standards. The ICJ Commissioners Justice Qinisilie Mabuza of Swaziland and Professor Michelo Hansungule of Zambia participated. The discussions and recommendations were later published in an ICJ paper in November 2015.

In August, the ICJ organized a training workshop in South Africa for women human rights defenders on mechanisms available to those advocating for women's rights. Participants discussed advocacy mechanisms at national level; heard from experts on the African sub-regional human rights mechanisms; received practical guidance in submitting applications to the African Court of Human Rights; and participated in a mock trial to put into practice what had been learnt over the two days.

During 2015, the ICJ also organized consultative discussions with women's rights experts, judges and other legal practitioners in order to validate a forthcoming Practitioners' Guide on women's access to justice in cases of gender-based violence.

### 1.8 Europe: the protection of the human rights of migrants and refugees

In April, the ICJ-European Institutions, in partnership with the Serbian NGO "Grupa 484" and Praxis, and in November, in partnership with "Grupa 484" and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), carried out training programmes on the international protection of migrants and asylum seekers in Serbia. Participants included government agencies and civil society organizations working to protect the rights of migrant and refugees. The programmes focused on EU and international human rights law, including the detention of migrants, the concept of discrimination in ESCR, and in particular, the right to adequate housing and education. The training programmes used materials from the ICJ Practitioners' Guide No.6 on migration and international human rights law.

In September, the ICJ issued a briefing paper urging European institutions to take coordinated action to protect the human rights of migrants and refugees arriving in Europe on a large scale.



## 2 Accountability for Human Rights Violations

The ICJ works to end impunity and make the truth known by ensuring those responsible for serious human rights violations and crimes under international law are brought to justice and that effective remedy and reparations are provided to victims. Accountability also acts as a deterrent to prevent the recurrence of injustices. Globalization has amplified the potential and scope for harmful impacts on human rights as a result of the operations of business enterprises so corporate accountability is an increasing concern.

The ICJ has supported legal cases against perpetrators and provides advice to victims' relatives to undertake legal proceedings in the case of past and present serious human rights violations, including extrajudicial executions and enforced disappearances. The ICJ works to empower communities and individuals to demand truth, justice and reparations and to develop targeted strategies. The ICJ opposes the implementation of amnesty laws and other measures aimed at preventing criminal persecution of those responsible for serious human rights and humanitarian law violations. The ICJ is working on accountability issues in several countries, including Colombia, Guatemala, Honduras, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Peru, Thailand and Tunisia.

### 2.1 Nepal: landmark Supreme Court ruling on amnesty provisions

The ICJ assisted 234 conflict victims to file a petition at the Supreme Court challenging several provisions of the 2014 transitional justice legislation. On 26 February 2015, the Supreme Court issued a landmark ruling prohibiting any amnesty provisions for serious human rights violations that occurred during the conflict. The Court also reaffirmed the need for the mandatory consent of the victim in any mediation process or for amnesty for less serious crimes. It clarified that the newly-formed Commission on Truth and Reconciliation and the Commission on the Investigation of Enforced Disappearances cannot deal with cases currently under consideration by the criminal justice system. It also upheld that the executive branch could not interfere with the prosecution powers of the Attorney General. The Supreme Court directed the relevant authorities, including the Commissions, to conform to previous Supreme Court rulings on conflict-era human rights violations and to international standards while conducting their mandate, thus once again providing a roadmap for a victim-centred and credible transitional justice process in accordance with Nepal's international human rights obligations.

This decision reflects the conclusions of the ICJ-supported Nepal Bar Association Expert Panel Report on the transitional justice legislation, released in late December 2014, and advocacy conducted by the ICJ and like-minded organizations over many years. This ruling sent a signal to the criminal justice system and to the Commissions to work under the human rights and rule of law framework. While in 2014 there was very little progress on the ICJ-supported cases, in 2015, there have been rulings in 13 ICJ-supported cases, of which 11 can be considered positive from the perspective of victims' rights to remedy and reparations. In this



way, the ICJ's litigation strategy has contributed to support justice for conflict victims.

## 2.2 Peru: the ICJ supports victims to advance justice and end impunity

For the last three years, the ICJ has worked with the Peruvian Team of Forensic Anthropologists (EPAF) on a project to end impunity and support the right to access justice and truth for relatives of victims of gross human rights violations during the internal armed conflict (1980-2000). EPAF identified seven key cases of collective enforced disappearances and extrajudicial execution allegedly perpetrated by either the Shining Path guerrilla group or the Peruvian Armed Forces. With the support of the ICJ, the EPAF has taken legal action to request the exhumation of unmarked graves. DNA samples from relatives and from the remains found in the graves were sent to forensic laboratories outside the country for identification. In some cases, it was possible to match the samples and identify the remains, thus allowing for a dignified reburial and a degree of emotional closure for the relatives. However, the local authorities have often delayed the legal procedures to request an official exhumation of the unmarked graves. The ICJ has also represented the families of victims of enforced disappearance and extrajudicial executions in Peruvian criminal justice proceedings.

The ICJ has expressed regret that the Executive has still not promulgated the Law to Search for Disappeared Persons even though, in 2013, the Minister at the time promised relatives it would become law. In June, the UN Working Group on Enforced Disappearances visited Peru. The ICJ and EPAF provided the mission with information regarding the cases they are supporting. The ICJ also met with the Prosecutor General, Dr Pablo Sánchez Velarde, to update him on the implementation of the project, including the investigation of the cases, the forensic work and the training programmes.

In December, the ICJ sent a fact-finding mission to review access to justice for victims of the internal armed conflict. The ICJ Commissioner, Stefan Treschel, was part of the mission. The report of the mission will be published in 2016. In these ways, access to justice for the victims' relatives is slowly advancing.

## 2.3 Guatemala: restitution of lands to indigenous peoples evicted during the internal armed conflict

The Tzalbal hamlet in the municipality of Nebaj, El Quiché, is inhabited by Maya-Ixil indigenous communities. The area was badly affected during the internal armed conflict and many people were forced to flee the area and became internally displaced or took refuge across the frontier in Mexico. In 2014, the Secretary for Agrarian Affairs and National Land Fund (FONTIERRA) notified the 14 communities in the Tzalbal hamlet that the land no longer belonged to them because it had passed into State property when they abandoned their homes during the internal armed conflict.

The Tzalbal community leaders requested the ICJ's support. The ICJ consulted the land registry and found that indeed the lands had been





registered as State property during the 1980s. The ICJ assisted the process of dialogue with the Municipal Mayor of Nebaj, who agreed to support the Tzabal community. The Municipal Council and the Mayor passed a motion of support for the restitution of the lands. The ICJ then supported the Municipality to file an administrative claim for the restitution of the lands with FONTIERRA. When this was unsuccessful, it was agreed to present a legal demand. The ICJ supported a process of consultations with the affected communities, and an Assembly with more than 500 people ratified the decision to present the legal demand. This case is still pending.

#### 2.4 Uruguay: advancing accountability and an end to impunity

In January, the ICJ published a report on *Uruguay: the Struggle for Truth and Justice in the Balance*, which makes recommendations concerning the steps necessary to end the paralysis surrounding the investigation of human rights violations during the military dictatorship and to give renewed impulse to the search for the disappeared.

To follow up on the report, on 8-11 June, the ICJ carried out a mission to Uruguay to discuss progress in addressing the situation of impunity. The mission comprised Prof Robert Goldman, Vice-President of the ICJ and former President of the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights, Dr Alejandro Artucio, Honorary Member of the ICJ and former Uruguayan Ambassador to the UN in New York and Geneva, and Wilder Tayler, the ICJ Secretary General. The mission met with high-level authorities, including President Tabaré Vazquez and was able to express support for the recently established Working Group for Truth and Justice. The mission encouraged the government to ensure that the Group's terms of references were consistent with international law and that it had strong investigatory powers. The mission also met with members of the Working Group, the National Institute for Human Rights, jurists and organizations of victims and concerned civil society.

#### 2.5 Asia: advocacy on enforced disappearances

From 2-3 February, the ICJ convened a two-day regional conference in Pakistan on enforced disappearances in Asia. The conference brought together lawyers, civil society activists and journalists from India, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand. Participants identified a culture of moral, political and legal impunity that prevented perpetrators from being brought to justice. They urged the respective States to promptly ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and take effective action to criminalize enforced disappearances. The conference adopted a resolution pledging to work together on ending impunity in cases of enforced disappearances.

On December 29, the Supreme Court of Thailand issued a disappointing verdict, which highlighted the continued inadequate mechanisms that exist in Thailand to deal with cases of enforced disappearances. The verdict acquitted the five police officers charged with coercion of Somchai Neelapaijit, a well-known human rights lawyer abducted in March 2004, and whose fate remains unknown.



The ICJ has consistently followed the case since it began. The verdict is indicative of the need for significant reforms and continued advocacy to end situations of impunity.

#### 2.6 Nepal: monitoring earthquake humanitarian relief

The earthquake that struck Nepal on 25 April 2015 and its numerous aftershocks killed over 8,800 people, injured over 21,000 and temporarily displaced around 188,000 people (picture page 28). Emergency relief by the Nepali government, the UN and international aid organizations faced many challenges. Reports of the slow pace and arbitrary nature of relief distribution and alleged sub-standard quality of goods distributed to affected populations quickly emerged. These issues were further exacerbated by the government's failure to draw up a long-term plan for relief, resettlement and rehabilitation.

Under international law governments and humanitarian aid agencies have an obligation to ensure that human rights norms are fully integrated in all stages of the post-disaster humanitarian response. Given past experience in both Nepal and post-disaster contexts elsewhere, the ICJ was concerned about the potential for human rights violations in the relief response, particularly regarding gender or caste-based discrimination. Between August and December 2015, the ICJ supported the Nepal Bar Association to carry out human rights monitoring, by documenting failures in the emergency response in three of the fourteen affected districts (Gorkha, Dolakha and Okhaldunga).

Key concerns captured by the field research include: difficulties in accessing aid due to documentation requirements; inadequate information about policies and entitlements; and the inadequacies of accountability mechanisms, including in terms of participatory policy making and victims' right to remedy. A briefing paper outlining the key findings will be released in 2016. Its recommendations will focus on how to ensure the protection of the rights of affected populations in post-earthquake settings and it is hoped it will lead to evidence-based civil society advocacy to press for policy changes in Nepal.

#### 2.7 Practitioners' Guides on Enforced Disappearance and Extrajudicial Execution

In 2015, the ICJ published the *Practitioners' Guide No 9 on Enforced Disappearance and Extrajudicial Execution: Investigation and Sanction* and the *Practitioners' Guide No 10 on Enforced Disappearance and Extrajudicial Execution: the Rights of Relatives*. Together these guides provide a comprehensive account of the different stages of investigation, the right to justice and the right to remedies and reparations for victims' relatives, as well as guarantees of non-recurrence. The guides include case studies and information concerning the key international human rights conventions and procedures and comparative law.





## 2.8 Colombia: report on the Colombian legal system and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance

During 2015, the ICJ carried out research to examine existing gaps in the Colombian legal system in order to comply with the provisions of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance that was ratified by the Colombian State in 2012. The research findings are being used to support on-going work on enforced disappearances in Colombia and will be distributed to the ICJ's Colombian partners and to associations of victims of the disappeared. The report will be published in 2016 and will be presented at the Committee on Enforced Disappearances during the examination of the State's report on Colombia scheduled for September 2016.

## 3 Independence of Judges and Lawyers

The ICJ works to ensure an independent, impartial and accountable judiciary and legal profession. The ICJ provides support in situations where the judiciary and legal profession are under attack, through following individual cases, conducting fact-finding missions and trial observations, advocacy and legal interventions. In some countries, legal and institutional frameworks may be insufficient to guarantee the independence and accountability of the judiciary, particularly in relation to the selection, promotion and dismissal of judges. Therefore, the ICJ carries out professional development programmes for judicial institutions and judges and lawyers on international law and standards and emerging issues, often through facilitating exchanges and by producing reports and recommendations on legal reforms.

During 2015, the ICJ has focused on how to improve judicial accountability in developing countries, in particular how to strengthen mechanisms to hold judges to account for involvement in human rights violations or corruption. There have also been a series of fact-finding missions and subsequent reports in countries where the independence of the judiciary is under severe attack.

### 3.1 Morocco: advocacy on the independence of the judiciary

From 12-18 June, the ICJ conducted a high-level mission to Morocco to present the findings of the ICJ's memoranda on the draft laws on the High Judicial Council and the Statute for Judges. The mission, led by ICJ Commissioner Philippe Texier, met with members of the executive, legislative and judicial branches and civil society organizations. Discussions focused on the reforms needed in order to ensure the High Judicial Council is institutionally independent with exclusive competence over all aspects of the careers of judges. At the same time, the ICJ held two professional development courses on judicial independence and accountability.

Following the mission, a significant number of amendments to the draft laws were introduced and there was considerable interest from national authorities to receive ICJ legal commentaries on other



draft laws. The legal briefs were used by local organizations in their advocacy work and there was also wide media coverage of the mission.

### 3.2 Russian Federation: reform of the legal profession

On 11–22 May, the ICJ held a mission to the Russian Federation to discuss the independence of lawyers in the light of recent proposals to reform the profession and create a single bar association. The ICJ held two roundtable seminars: the first with its affiliate organization, the Independent Council for Legal Expertise, which addressed issues faced by independent lawyers, including threats, harassment and obstruction of lawyers in representing their clients; and the second with the Institute of Law and Legal Policy, which brought together academic experts on the Russian legal profession to discuss challenges to individual and institutional independence and priorities for reforms. Constructive discussions were held with the Ministry of Justice, the Federal Bar Association and the Ombudsperson. The mission was successful in engaging with key actors on reform priorities at a time when Russia is considering far-reaching reforms to the organizations of legal professionals.

In November 2015, the ICJ published *Towards a Stronger Legal Profession in the Russian Federation*, a report which analyses the organizations of the legal profession and their effectiveness in supporting access to justice and the right to fair trial in Russia. It raises issues related to professional ethics and disciplinary proceedings for lawyers as well as protection of lawyers and obstruction of their work. The report makes recommendations for changes to both law and practice to advance the independence of the legal profession and its effectiveness in upholding human rights.

### 3.3 Swaziland: successful challenge to judicial impropriety

In early 2014, Thulani Maseko, a Swazi human rights lawyer was charged with criminal contempt of court and sentenced to an unprecedented two-year term of imprisonment for acting in his professional capacity.

In March 2015, the ICJ carried out advocacy at the Human Rights Council and sponsored the wife of Thulani Maseko to take part in a panel discussion on human rights defenders and national security. Accompanied by ICJ staff, she also met the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders, Michel Forst, as well as staff working for the Special Rapporteurs on Freedom of Expression, and Independence of Judges and Lawyers. This and similar interventions helped to keep the issue of human rights defenders in Swaziland in the public arena.

On 11–15 May, the ICJ carried out a fact-finding mission to Swaziland to assess the state of independence of the judiciary and administration of justice. In order to maintain pressure on the Swazi authorities, the ICJ made a submission, focusing on the independence of the judiciary and the right to fair trial, to the Universal Periodic Review in advance of its review of Swaziland. In June 2015, on appeal, the case against Thulani Maseko was dismissed and he was released, widely considered a consequence of international advocacy.



In July 2015, the ICJ, which observed the Maseko trial, published *Unfair Trial, Arbitrary Detention and Judicial Impropriety*, a report that concluded the arrest, detention, trial, conviction and sentencing of the defendants involved multiple violations of the Constitution, the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, the Principles and Guidelines on the Right to a Fair Trial in Africa and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

### 3.4 Guatemala: Independence of judges under siege

From 23 February–4 March, the ICJ carried out a mission to Guatemala comprising members of the Norwegian Association of Judges, the President of the El Salvador Forum of Democratic Judges and the former President of the Association of Judges for Democracy in Honduras. The mission met the President of the Supreme Court of Justice, the Attorney General and the Human Rights Attorney and others. The ICJ mission expressed alarm at the constant pressures and threats against independent judges, who have faced selective transfers and arbitrary sanctions, and called for due process in the case of any disciplinary measures.

From 12–13 October, together with the Norwegian Association of Judges, the ICJ hosted the third regional conference on judicial independence and impunity in Central America. The main issues under review were the need to strengthen the judicial career and the independence of judges.

### 3.5 Geneva Forum of judges and lawyers on judicial accountability

From 14–15 December, over 40 senior judges and lawyers participated in the 6<sup>th</sup> annual Geneva Forum on the theme of judicial accountability. This year's forum was part of a longer-term project to promote judicial accountability through knowledge sharing between the judiciary and other legal professionals, as well as governments and civil society. The focus of the project is on judicial involvement in human rights violations, such as imprisonment after unfair trials, cases of judges providing impunity to perpetrators of enforced disappearances and torture, as well as cases of judicial corruption.

Some of the topics discussed included the practicalities of bringing criminal proceedings against judges; the composition and character of accountability bodies; methods of gathering evidence of judicial misconduct; and the rights of individual judges and of alleged victims of judicial misconduct. An expert consultation meeting preceded the forum. Held in October, in Tunisia, this meeting focused on judicial accountability in the context of developing countries, where the negative impacts of corruption on human rights can be widespread. The discussions at both these meetings will inform the forthcoming ICJ Practitioners' Guide on judicial accountability.

### 3.6 ASEAN: judging with a gender perspective

On 5–6 October, the ICJ together with the Indonesian Supreme Court and UN Women organized a regional judicial dialogue on "Judging with a gender perspective". The dialogue was held in Jakarta for





43 judges and representatives from judicial training institutes in nine countries in Southeast Asia. The meeting reviewed the various initiatives of courts in Southeast Asia to promote and protect women's human rights and how to avoid gender stereotyping in judicial decision-making. Two women judges from the Supreme Court of Mexico spoke about their groundbreaking work on introducing a gender perspective and the 2013 Mexico Protocol on Judicial Decision-making with a Gender Perspective, adopted by the Mexican Supreme Court. In this way, South-South networks of jurists concerned to improve women's access to justice have been set in motion.

### 3.7 Southern African Chief Justices Forum

Held on 27–28 August 2015 in Zimbabwe, the ICJ co-hosted the Southern African Chief Justices' Forum (SACJF) Annual Conference on the theme "Guaranteeing the right to a fair trial in Africa: showcasing best practice". The meeting was organized together with the SACJF and the Judicial Services Commission (JSC) of Zimbabwe. There were 13 Chief Justices and over 120 senior judges present.

The three main areas discussed at the conference were related to the right to a fair trial, appointment procedures, judicial training and judicial reform. The final declaration called upon the Judicial Services Commissions in Africa to promote the independence of the judiciary, adopt measures to reduce case backlogs and make courts more accessible for litigants. The meeting also called upon governments and legislatures to provide adequate resources for judicial operations. The conference agreed to work towards developing regional principles and guidelines on the selection and appointment of judges and establishing a regional judicial training institute.

### 3.8 Myanmar: professional development of the Supreme Court of the Union

On 2–3 February 2015, the ICJ conducted a workshop with the Supreme Court of the Union of Myanmar on the theme of judicial ethics. The ICJ Secretary General and three ICJ Commissioners, all Supreme Court judges (from Norway, Serbia and South Africa), took part. Following the event, the Office of the Supreme Court of the Union requested the ICJ to lead the process of reviewing, drafting and implementing a new judicial code of ethics to reflect international standards and to assist with the development of its strategic development plan.

The ICJ also issued the Burmese edition of the *Practitioners' Guide No 1 on the Independence and Accountability of Judges, Lawyers and Prosecutors*.

## 4 ICJ's Advocacy at the United Nations, on Global Security and the Rule of Law

The ICJ seeks to strengthen the institutions of the UN Treaty Bodies, including the individual complaints procedures and the UN Human Rights Council. However, in recent years, human rights systems in Africa, the Americas and Europe have been subjected to politically





motivated attacks aimed at undermining their effectiveness, for example, the removal of the Southern African Development Community Tribunal's jurisdiction to hear individual complaints; attempts to erode the autonomy and independence of the inter-American human rights system; and initiatives to restrict the jurisdiction of the European Court of Human Rights. At the global level, inter-governmental processes initiated by some States have sought to undermine, rather than strengthen, the UN treaty body system.

This year, the ICJ has continued to monitor counter-terrorism laws, policies and practices both within and outside of armed conflict, to ensure they are compliant with human rights and the rule of law. It has continued to produce a monthly e-bulletin on counter-terrorism and human rights news from around the world. It has also carried out advocacy on the issue of human rights in the digital age. The ICJ has also engaged with the different international processes underway to strengthen standards in the area of business and human rights.

#### 4.1 Egypt and Tunisia: position papers on counter-terrorism

In Egypt, following the assassination in June of the Prosecutor-General and attacks on the armed forces in the Sinai, the Egyptian government adopted a counter-terrorism law. The Tunisian Assembly did the same following the attacks on the Bardo Museum in March and in Sousse in June.

In July 2015, the ICJ responded to these counter-terrorism laws by publishing and disseminating two position papers. The ICJ highlighted rule of law and human rights concerns raised by these new laws, including overbroad definitions of terrorism offences and the potential for the laws to be used to suppress legitimate and peaceful exercise of human rights. In addition, the papers outlined the broad immunity from criminal responsibility granted to officials for the use of force, including the use of lethal force when not strictly necessary to protect lives.

In the case of Egypt, the paper also detailed the sweeping surveillance and detention powers granted to prosecutors, the establishment of a new terrorist court with expedited procedures, and the President's far-reaching, discretionary powers to "take the necessary measures" to maintain public security, where there is a "danger of terrorist crimes".

In the case of Tunisia, the paper identified other provisions of the law that raise serious concerns for the right to a fair trial, the right to liberty, and the right to privacy, such as provisions allowing a person to be held in police custody for up to 15 days without access to a lawyer or a judge.

The position papers were disseminated widely at the national and international level, including with government Ministries, members of the judiciary and legislative, members of the National Human Rights Council and civil society. They also received widespread coverage in national and international press.



#### 4.2 Council of Europe: "Foreign Terrorist Fighters" — Draft Protocol to the Council of Europe Convention on Prevention of Terrorism

In January 2015, a fast-track process to draft a Protocol to the Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism, addressing issues related to "foreign terrorist fighters" was initiated, under the auspices of the Committee of Experts on Terrorism (CODEXTER). The Protocol makes a crime under law: travel for purposes of terrorism, training for terrorism and participation in a group for the purposes of terrorism and related offences. The offences established by the Protocol carry significant risks of violations of human rights, including through arbitrary or discriminatory application at national level. Jointly with Amnesty International, the ICJ submitted a series of comments and proposals for amendments to the draft Protocol that were influential in removing some of the most problematic provisions. Nevertheless, the ICJ continues to have serious concerns about the potential impact of the protocol on freedom of movement, freedom of expression and association, and the right to respect for private life.

#### 4.3 Human Rights Council: accountability in Sri Lanka

At the September 2015 session of the Human Rights Council, the OHCHR delivered a detailed report and the USA and the UK led negotiations on a resolution for an accountability process for violations of international and humanitarian law. A key civil society demand has been that any accountability mechanism be international. The ICJ's position was to prefer a primary role for the International Criminal Court (ICC) but as this was not politically realistic, the ICJ advocacy focused on the creation of a hybrid court with either substantial or majority involvement of international judges and prosecutors (as compared to the government's proposal for a domestic mechanism). The adopted resolution, which enjoyed the support of the government of Sri Lanka, includes reference to the need for international judges, prosecutors, lawyers and investigators.

#### 4.4 Myanmar: legal framework for business investment

Over the year, the ICJ continued to advocate for a legal framework for business investment that upholds Myanmar's human rights obligations. The ICJ provided training to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA) and civil society organizations as well as legal comments to draft laws. It has also participated in consultations held with the International Finance Corporation of the World Bank and DICA.

On 30–31 May, the ICJ held a workshop on business and human rights in Kyauk Phyu, Rakhine State, attended by civil society representatives, the local police force and Members of Parliaments. This region has been seriously affected by extractive industry projects and there have been allegations of forced labour, the eviction of hundreds of subsistence farming families and serious environmental damage.

On 6–8 July, another workshop was held in Nay Pyi Taw for participants from the Office of the Attorney General and other ministries in order to raise awareness about Myanmar's human rights obligations in





relation to investment. The ICJ Commissioner, Prof Andrew Clapham, gave a presentation on investment arbitration and public policy.

The ICJ's advocacy together with other civil society organizations has yielded results. The DICA undertook a consultative process in which civil society was able to voice its concerns. The resulting new draft investment law has been submitted to Myanmar's legislative assembly. The draft includes key provisions protecting the government's right to regulate in favour of human rights and the environment. It clarifies that Myanmar's international legal commitments will be considered in any arbitration. The draft law is in stark contrast to earlier bilateral investment treaties with major foreign investors, such as China and Japan. It is expected that the new national law will also serve as the basis for future bilateral treaties, for instance with the EU and the USA. The ICJ has also been actively engaged in advocacy for the public disclosure of information on Myanmar's Special Economic Zones.

#### **4.5 UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention (WGAD) Basic Principles and Guidelines**

The ICJ engaged with the UN WGAD in the elaboration of Basic Principles and Guidelines on remedies and procedures on the right of anyone deprived of their liberty to bring proceedings before a court. The ICJ worked to ensure that the principles allowed for access to remedies for detainees, including those detained in situations of armed conflict and in the course of counter-terrorism operations. The ICJ produced a legal commentary on the WGAD Basic Principles and Guidelines as they apply to situations of armed conflict, providing clarification and justification with reference to international law and standards. In light of some recent State practices, including in the context of unlawful rendition and secret detention programmes, there is an especially important value in these new principles, including for the combating of incommunicado and secret detention, enforced disappearance and torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment.

#### **4.6 Open-Ended International Working Group (OEIWG) on a legally binding instrument on business and human rights**

On 30 May, the ICJ made a written submission to the OEIWG and from 6–10 July participated actively in the first session. The ICJ staff took part in NGO preparatory briefings, made a joint oral presentation to the group on behalf of 15 other NGOs and gave a presentation as an expert at one of the panel discussions. The ICJ also held informal meetings with members of the OEIWG to present advocacy positions. The ICJ interventions led a number of NGOs and expert panelists to support the issues that the ICJ had raised, including on the scope of the future treaty and the need to focus on business legal liability and access to remedy for victims.





#### **4.7 Submission on a new General Recommendation on women's access to justice to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)**

Dated 6 May, the ICJ submission argued that CEDAW's General Recommendation (GR) on women's access to justice should address discrimination on SOGI grounds as an impediment to the realization of the right of women to access justice. The submission also sought to ensure that the GR adopted a broad understanding of what the right to access justice entails. The submission urged CEDAW to ensure that the GR recognized the plight of women criminalized for engaging in consensual same-sex relations. The text of the new GR, adopted in July 2015, reflects these concerns. The vast majority of the ICJ's comments and edits were adopted, including in most cases, verbatim.

#### **4.8 Submission on Uganda for the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR)**

Dated 12 May, the ICJ submission on Uganda focused on the detrimental impact of the adoption and enforcement of the Anti-Homosexuality Act 2014 and the effect of the criminalization of consensual same-sex conduct on the protection and realization of a number of Covenant rights, including among others the principle of non-discrimination, the right to work and the right to adequate housing. The ICJ was the only civil society organization to address SOGI issues at this Committee meeting on Uganda.

In addition, the ICJ made a presentation at the Committee's official briefing with civil society. The Committee's Concluding Observations reflect a strong concern about the discriminatory effects of Uganda's anti-LGBT legislation and represent a development in international human rights law in this area. The Committee's concerns will be useful in future international and national advocacy.

#### **4.9 The ICJ calls for member States not to ratify the Statute of the Arab Court of Human Rights**

From 8-9 April, together with Legal Agenda, the ICJ held a regional conference in Tunis on the theme of the Arab Court of Human Rights. The conference brought together international and national experts, including three ICJ Commissioners. The conference analysed the key provisions of the Statute of the Arab Court and identified the reforms required to establish a court that provides meaningful remedies and reparations for victims of human rights. It also reviewed joint advocacy strategies on the reform of the Statute.

During the conference, the ICJ launched *The Arab Court of Human Rights: A Flawed Statute for an Ineffective Court*, a report that highlights the shortcomings in the drafting process and the provisions of the Statute that fall short of international standards. The final declaration called for a revision of the Statute and for the League of Arab States countries to refrain from ratifying the Statute until amended.





**The ICJ-European  
Institutions Office**



## The ICJ-European Institutions Office

The ICJ-European Institutions is a non-profit organization established in Belgium in 2012, which shares the mission and vision of the ICJ to promote human rights through the rule of law. While independent of the ICJ, it is closely linked and co-operates with the ICJ and its partner organizations in the promotion and protection of human rights and the rule of law around the world.

In 2015, the ICJ-European Institutions and the ICJ made representations to the institutions of the European Union and Council of Europe on issues of migration, counter-terrorism and criminal justice. In March a briefing paper, published jointly with JUSTICE and the Netherlands Committee of Jurists for Human Rights, analysed the proposed EU directive on the presumption of innocence, and made recommendations for amendments in light of international human rights law. The ICJ continued its work as a member of the Frontex Consultative Forum on Human Rights, making representations on Frontex joint return operations, and on accountability of Frontex for violations of human rights. In public statements, the ICJ deplored the EU's inadequate response to mass deaths of migrants at sea. It also made submissions to an EU consultation on preventing and combating hatred within the EU. At the Council of Europe, in addition to work on the draft Protocol to the Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism, addressing issues of "foreign fighters", the ICJ-European Institutions and the ICJ worked with a group of NGOs to influence the Brussels Declaration on the implementation of the European Convention on Human Rights of March 2015.

In 2015, the ICJ-European Institutions also co-operated with the ICJ on a number of projects, including on independence of the judiciary in Lebanon (jointly with Legal Agenda); on protection against discrimination of asylum-seekers and unaccompanied child migrants in Serbia (jointly with Grupa 484) and on access to justice and the rule of law in Swaziland (jointly with Swazi Lawyers for Human Rights).



A microscopic image of a cell, likely a eukaryotic cell, showing a large, dark, spherical nucleus with a prominent nucleolus. The cytoplasm is filled with various organelles and a network of membranes. The image is overlaid with a large, semi-transparent blue circular graphic that frames the central part of the cell. The word "Communications" is written in white, bold, sans-serif font across the upper right portion of the blue circle.

# Communications



## Communications

During 2015, ICJ has again increased its presence in local and international media outlets, as well as in social media, with close to 30% more press hits in 2015 than in the previous year.

The ICJ Media & Communications Unit has also increased the organization's multimedia production and capacity. It coordinated a multimedia training (from filming to editing) and subsequent mission in Tunisia for two staff of the MENA Programme, in partnership with True Heroes Films — ICJ's partner NGO for multimedia. A 12-minute documentary was produced to illustrate and support a report on remedies and reparations for victims of human rights violations in Tunisia.

The ICJ was able to buy multimedia equipment for the MENA team and train the same staff on web writing and publishing, hence strengthening the ICJ communications potential in the MENA region.

In September 2015, the ICJ Media & Communications Unit took part in a field mission to Nebaj, Guatemala, and produced a series of video interviews with members of the community and the ICJ Regional Director on land rights issues (picture opposite).

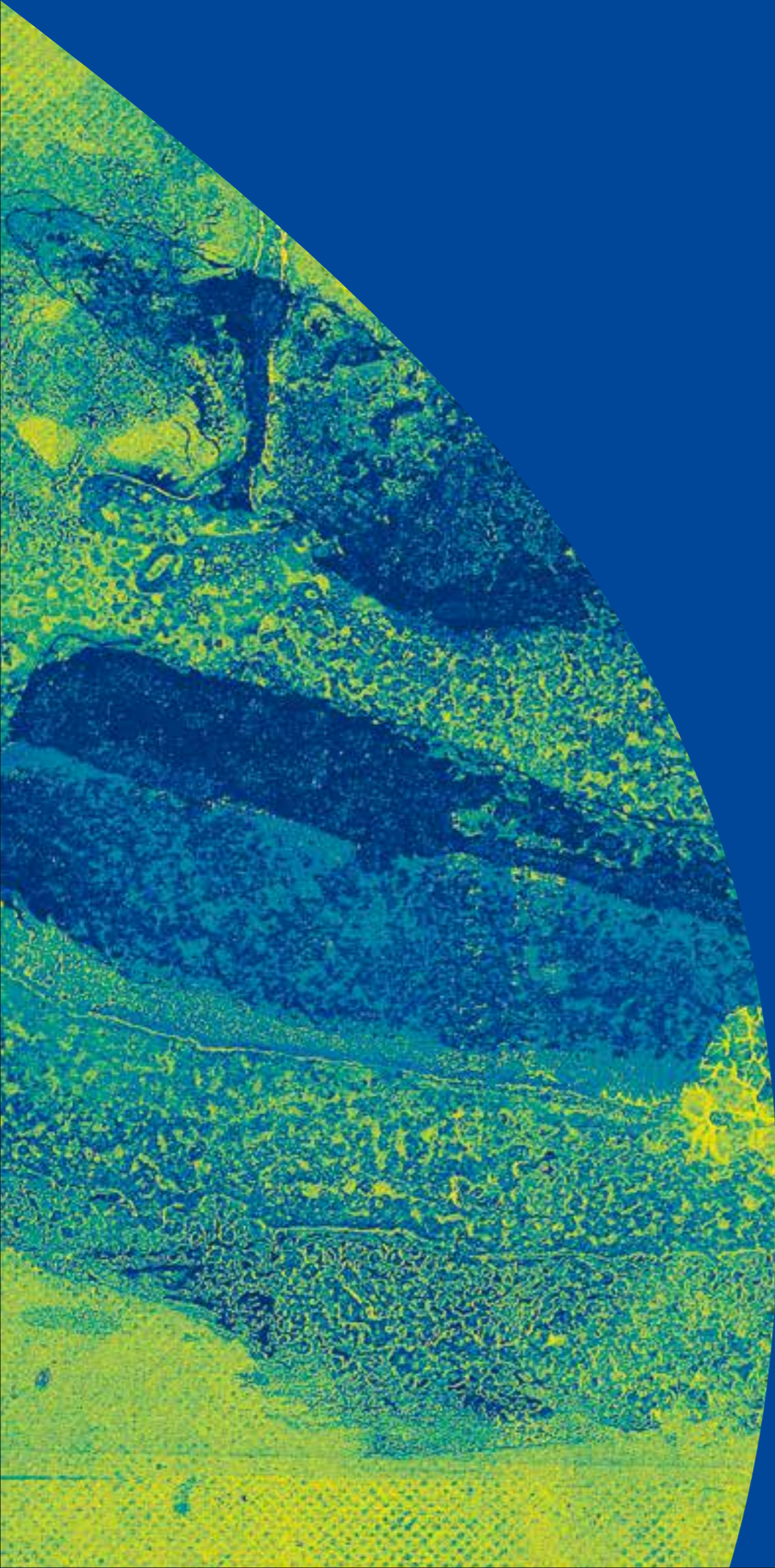
In November, a similar mission took place in Peru to document the social conflicts arising between local communities and large extractive companies in various areas of the country. Another set of video interviews was produced with members of the affected communities as well as the ICJ expert on the issue.

In December 2015, the ICJ Media & Communications Unit partnered again with True Heroes Films to produce a series of video interviews at the Geneva Forum on judicial accountability.





# Financial Report





## Financial Report

The ICJ's financial statements for the year ending 31 December 2015 were prepared in accordance with the Swiss generally-accepted accounting principles applicable to charitable non-profit organizations (Swiss GAAP FER 21) and have been audited by the accounting firm Berney & Associates.

In 2015 and for the first time the consolidated financial statements comprise the ICJ International Secretariat based in Switzerland, with its six field offices, and its sister organization, the ICJ European Institutions based in Belgium. In 2014 ICJ European Institutions was not consolidated in ICJ's financial statements since its operations were relatively small. The comparative information for 2014 figures has been restated in compliance with Swiss GAAP FER.

A copy of the full financial report may be obtained from the ICJ head office in Geneva.

Activities implemented during 2015 resulted in a slight increase of 7% in expenditure, with a total operating expenditure of 9.13 million Swiss Francs. Of that total operating expenditure, 85.7% was spent on programme activities and 14.3% on governance, quality control and support services.

The majority of contributions are paid in Euros or other foreign currencies. Throughout the year, the ICJ has sought to reduce costs incurred in Switzerland so as to mitigate the negative effect of the Swiss Franc appreciation: in 2015, expenditure paid in Swiss Francs amounted to CHF 4.3 million, which represents a reduction of 6.7% compared to 2014. Additional measures are being put in place and will continue in the years to come.

Expenditure in 2015 was mainly financed through contributions received in previous years. The equivalent of 3.8 million Swiss Francs expenditure was incurred for grants contracted in Euros, and was therefore negatively impacted by the Swiss Franc appreciation. This in turn has impacted on the annual financial performance.

## Balance sheet as at 31 December 2015

(with comparative figures for 2014, in Swiss Francs)

	2015	2014
<b>Assets</b>		
<b>Current assets</b>		
Cash & cash equivalents	1 607 033	3 272 490
Grants receivable (short term)	5 205 864	8 736 567
Other current assets	251 073	93 383
Related-party debtor	1 793	3 162
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>7 065 763</b>	<b>12 105 602</b>
<b>Non-current assets</b>		
Grants receivable (long term)	692 417	1 172 825
Tangible and intangible assets	107 353	197 258
Financial assets	69 884	70 164
<b>Total non-current assets</b>	<b>869 654</b>	<b>1 440 247</b>
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>7 935 417</b>	<b>13 545 849</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
<b>Short-term liabilities</b>		
Bank overdrafts	96	1 095 239
Operating liabilities	656 884	847 772
Accrued liabilities	62 338	51 377
Contributions received in advance	1 798	1 561
Lease liabilities	-	15 980
Financial commitments	436 000	2 139 274
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<b>1 157 116</b>	<b>4 151 203</b>
<b>Long-term liabilities</b>		
Lease liabilities	-	18 250
<b>Total long-term liabilities</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>18 250</b>
<b>Restricted funds</b>		
Funds restricted to projects	6 735 004	8 882 614
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	<b>6 735 004</b>	<b>8 882 614</b>
<b>Capital of the organization</b>		
General reserves	494 159	558 964
Loss for the year	(449 735)	(64 805)
Currency translation differences	(1 127)	(377)
<b>Total capital of the organization</b>	<b>43 297</b>	<b>493 782</b>
<b>Total liabilities &amp; funds</b>	<b>7 935 417</b>	<b>13 545 849</b>



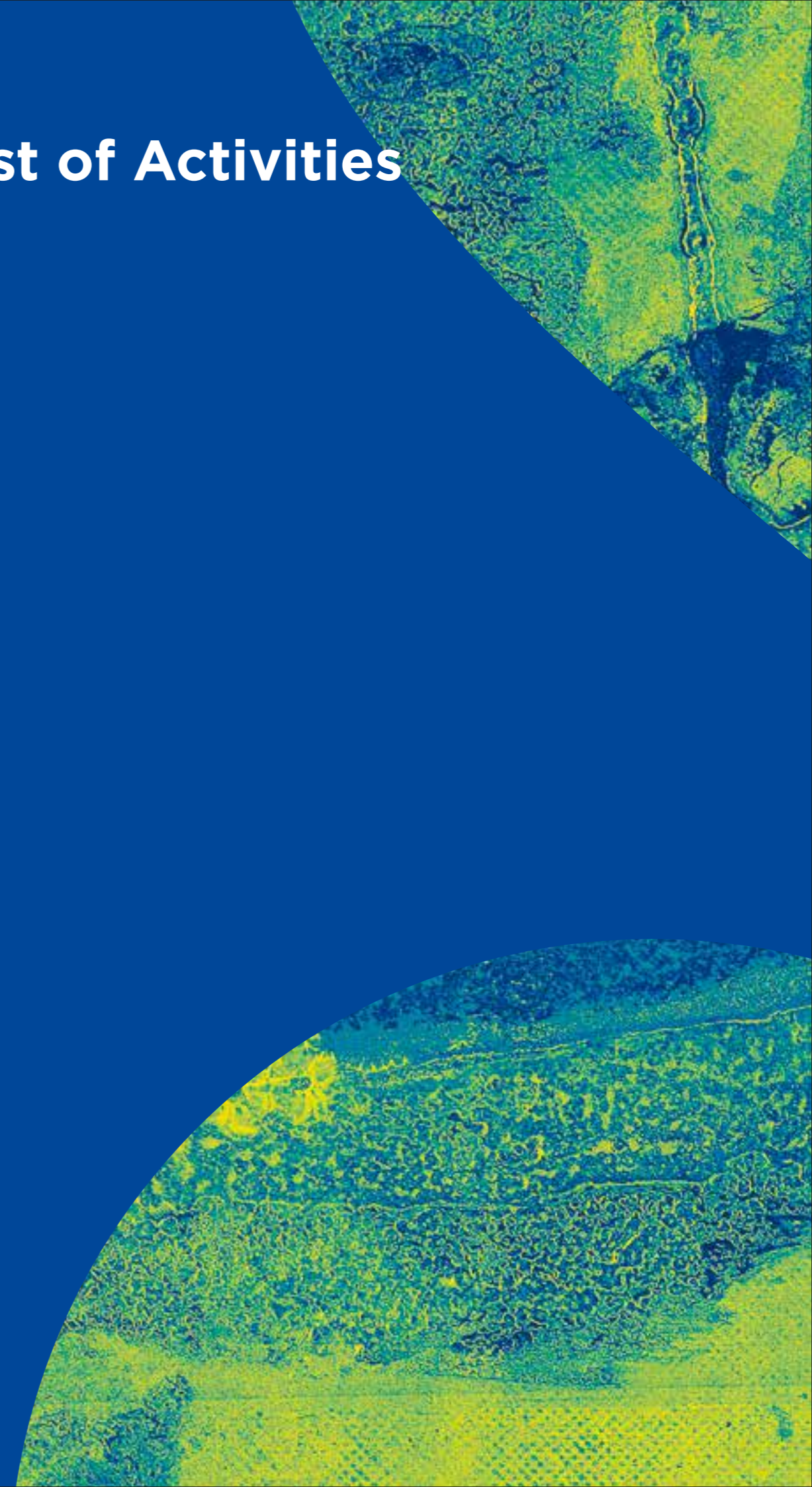
**Statement of financial performance for the year ended 31 December 2015**

(with comparative figures for 2014, in Swiss Francs)

	2015	2014
<b>Income</b>		
Contributions for projects	5 247 076	7 453 652
Contributions for the commission	1 958 847	2 430 751
<b>Total income</b>	<b>7 205 923</b>	<b>9 884 403</b>
<b>Operating expenditure</b>		
Staff	4 742 141	4 686 270
Meeting & travel costs	2 007 320	1 590 268
Consultancy fees	1 438 470	1 268 394
Publication and promotion costs	67 215	106 412
Communication costs	80 335	91 768
Office premises	626 821	549 969
Other administrative expenditures	85 154	128 210
Depreciation	83 380	103 092
<b>Total operating expenditure</b>	<b>9 130 836</b>	<b>8 524 383</b>
<b>Operating result</b>	<b>(1 924 913)</b>	<b>1 360 020</b>
Non-operating result, net	23 734	11 342
Financial expenses, net	(696 166)	(99 595)
<b>Intermediate result before change in funds</b>	<b>(2 597 345)</b>	<b>1 271 767</b>
Attribution to restricted funds	(5 247 076)	(7 453 652)
Use of restricted funds	7 394 686	6 117 080
<b>Change in restricted funds</b>	<b>2 147 610</b>	<b>(1 336 572)</b>
<b>Loss for the year</b>	<b>(449 735)</b>	<b>(64 805)</b>



# List of Activities



## List of Activities

The following selected list of activities intends to show the variety of actions implemented in 2015 by the ICJ.

### Africa

#### Advocacy interventions

5 March	ICJ calls for the prompt and thorough investigation into the killing of human rights defender Gilles Cistac in Mozambique
23 April 11-15 May	Statement expressing concern at the arrest of Swaziland High Court judges Fact-finding mission to examine the independence and accountability of the judiciary in Swaziland
30 June	ICJ welcomes the decision of the Supreme Court of Swaziland to uphold the appeal of imprisoned human rights defenders Thulani Maseko and Bheki Makhubu and ordering their immediate release
1 July	Joint open letter on Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir's visit to South Africa without arrest
11 September	Letter to the Chief Justice of Ghana urging her to conduct proceedings against 22 judges and magistrates suspended on suspicion of corruption and misconduct

#### Capacity Building

5 June	Workshop for women lawyers on making a difference through the legal profession, Lesotho
22-24 June	Regional workshop for East and Southern African lawyers on business and human rights with a special focus on children's rights, Zimbabwe
24-25 June	Workshop in collaboration with the Law Society of Zimbabwe (LSZ) on economic, social and cultural rights, Zimbabwe
6-8 July	First strategic planning workshop organized by the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) of Zimbabwe
16-17 July	Conference in co-operation with the Africa Judges and Jurists Forum on rising judicial persecution of human rights defenders in Africa, held in South Africa
30-31 July	Seminar on challenging sexual and gender-based violence in the context of fair trial, Swaziland
8-9 August	Workshop on women's legal advocacy through the application of international human rights standards and use of supranational mechanisms, held in South Africa
6-7 November	Workshop, in co-operation with Lawyers for Human Rights Swaziland, Lawyers for Human Rights South Africa and Southern Africa Litigation Centre, on strategic litigation for lawyers and human rights defenders, Swaziland

#### Trial observations

January-June January-June	Trial observation in the case of lawyer Thulani Maseko and journalist Bheki Makhubu Trial observation of the constitutional challenge to the Suppression of Terrorism Act and Sedition and Subversive Activities Act case, before the full bench of the High Court in Swaziland
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#### UN Interventions

17 February	Joint petition in the cases of Thulani Maseko and Bheki Makhubu with the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention (UNWGAD)
12 May	Submission to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) for the examination of the Initial Periodic Report of Uganda
21 September	Submission to the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of Swaziland

### Americas

#### Advocacy interventions

19 March	Press conference on Guatemalan Bar Association Honour Tribunal ruling against Rios Montt's lawyers
15 May	Letter to the Attorney General of Peru on concerns about a case concerning the exhumation of a grave
24 June 22 July-27 August	Dialogue with Parliamentarians on the Peace Accords in Guatemala Dialogue with judges, International Commission against Impunity in Guatemala (CICIG) and OHCHR to discuss the law of the judicial career in Guatemala
6-11 September	International observation mission for the election of the Supreme Court of Justice in Honduras
16 September	Two meetings with the Attorney General's Office to promote the systematization of transitional justice cases in Guatemala
13 November	Statement calling on Peruvian authorities to reform laws and policies to ensure the protection of economic, social and cultural rights
25 November	Joint statement with AI to support a Bicameral Commission for truth, memory, justice, reparation and the strengthening of democratic institutions in Argentina

#### Capacity Building

27 February 13-14 March	Joint theatre and forum to promote LGBTI rights, Guatemala Workshop, in co-operation with Peruvian Forensic Anthropology Team (EPAF), on investigation and punishment of the crimes of enforced disappearances and extrajudicial executions in Peru
28-29 April 30 April 15 June 24 June	Workshop with indigenous communities affected by megaprojects in Guatemala Dialogue between community leaders and local authorities, Nebaj, Guatemala Public forum to promote compliance with the Peace Accords in Guatemala Workshop with local human rights defenders on the observation of emblematic cases in Honduras
20-28 August 12 October	Two workshops on an observatory of judicial independence in Guatemala Regional conference, in co-operation with the Norwegian Judges' Association and the Guatemalan Mayan Bar Association, to strengthen the judicial career
2-4 December	Workshop for journalists on the observation of emblematic cases on transitional justice and the criminalization of human rights defenders

#### Legal submissions

January	Expert-witness written intervention on laws of repentance of terrorism offences before the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (IACtHR) in the case <i>Galindo Cárdenas and others v. Peru</i>
January-September 20 April	Trial observation of cases related to the criminalization of social protest in Honduras Legal opinion in the case <i>Cruz Sánchez and others v. Peru</i> before the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights (IACHR)
1-17 June	Assistance to Legal Association of Rabinal in the case of the Chichupac massacre in Guatemala before the IACtHR
19 June	Expert-witness written intervention to the US District Court of Southern District of Florida concerning the Chiquita Banana Company
20 July 28-29 June	Amicus curiae to the IACtHR in the case <i>Yarce and others v. Colombia</i> Legal advice on strategic litigation in the land restitution process in Nebaj, Guatemala
6-20 August	Legal assistance to 32 communities affected by the construction of the Chixoy hydro-electric dam
10 August	Expert-witness written intervention to the IACtHR in the case <i>Quispialaya Vilcapoma v. Peru</i>
26 August	Joint amicus curiae with the World Organization against Torture to the Constitutional Court of Colombia on constitutional reform



July–September	Trial observation of cases of genocide and sexual exploitation in Guatemala
	<b>UN interventions</b>
4 June	Joint submission of an alternative report to the HRC on Venezuela's compliance with the ICCPR
10 December	Submission on Peru to the Committee on the Rights of the Child
	<b>Asia-Pacific</b>
	<b>Advocacy interventions</b>
4 March	Letter to the Chairman of the Committee on Human Rights of the House of Representatives of the Philippines on the act establishing a national preventive mechanism against torture
30 March	Joint statement on revision of the terms of reference of the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights
7 April	Open letter to the Speaker of the Lower House of the Parliament of Malaysia to reject or amend the draft Prevention of Terrorism Act (POTA)
15 April	Briefing paper on Pakistan's new provisions to allow military courts to try civilians for offences allegedly related to terrorism
19 May	Letter to President Joko Widodo to grant Mary Jane Veloso, a Filipino national on death row in Indonesia, a permanent reprieve from execution and to call for the abolition of the death penalty
24 May	Joint statement calling for the immediate release of Vietnamese blogger Tran Huynh Duy Thuc
1 June	Open letter to urge the government to withdraw a proposed law that would severely limit the rights of NGOs in Cambodia
9 July	Joint letter to urge the Thai Government to drop criminal charges against two journalists for reporting on the Rohingya trafficking crisis
17 July	Briefing paper and accompanying letter to Nepal's Constituent Assembly on a number of concerns about Nepal's Draft Constitution
22 July	Joint open letter to China's leaders expressing concern about a recent wave of arrests of lawyers
2 August	Opinion piece: "Nepal's 'fast tracked' constitutional process trades rights for speed"
23 August	Opinion piece "ASEAN must stop brushing-off civil society"
11 September	Joint statement to call for the Lao government to intensify its efforts to conduct a prompt, impartial, and effective investigation into Sombath's apparent enforced disappearance
23 September	Opinion piece: "Myanmar: public consultation improves new draft investment law"
3 November	Joint statement to call upon the Vietnamese government to comprehensively revise the draft Law on Religion
24–25 November	High-level dialogue, in co-operation with UNDP and the Office of the Supreme Court of the Union (OSCU), on drafting and implementing a code of judicial ethics in Myanmar
11 December	Joint letter to urge the Malaysian government to drop charges against human rights defender Lena Hendry
	<b>Capacity Building</b>
3 February	Workshop on judicial ethics and the rule of law with the Supreme Court of the Union of Myanmar
2–3 February	Conference, in partnership with the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan, on enforced and involuntary disappearances in Asia
6–8 May	Workshop with newly recruited deputy public prosecutors at the Office of the Attorney General, Myanmar
30–31 May	Workshop on business and human rights in Rakhine State, Myanmar

4–5 June	Workshop on safeguards for fair trials in death penalty cases for Indonesian lawyers, Indonesia
6–8 July	Workshop on investment law challenges with the Office of the Attorney General and other Ministries in Myanmar
18–19 July	Workshop for judges on the protection of victims in criminal cases in the South of Thailand
11–12 September	Two workshops on the right to remedy and reparations as part of the transitional justice process for judges, prosecutors and defence lawyers, Nepal
1 October	Regional conference in co-operation with the Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development and Boat People SOS on the promotion and protection of freedom of religion or belief, Thailand
	<b>Legal submissions</b>
3 July	Trial observation of the defamation case of blogger Roy Ngearn in Singapore
9 July	Trial observation of the case against two Thailand-based journalists from the online news outlet, Phuketwan
	<b>UN interventions</b>
10 April	Legal submission to the Committee on the Rights of the Child in view of the Committee's preparation of a List of Issues for the examination of Brunei Darussalam
27 April	Submission to the CESCR in advance of the examination of Thailand's periodic reports under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)
19 June	Submission to the Human Rights Council (HRC) Working Group on the UPR in advance of the HRC's review of Singapore
21 September	Joint submission with Thai Lawyers for Human Rights (TLHR) to the Working Group on the UPR in advance of the HRC review of Thailand
24 September	Oral statement to the HRC calling on the Maldives to accept and implement recommendations on human rights and the rule of law
30 September	Oral statement to the HRC commenting on the landmark UN investigation and report on violations of human rights and humanitarian law in Sri Lanka
	<b>Europe</b>
	<b>Advocacy Interventions</b>
2 April	Submission to the EU Ombudsman on the compliance of the Code of Conduct on joint return operations of Frontex with international human rights law
7 April	Submission of public observations jointly with Amnesty International (AI) on the revised draft Additional Protocol to the Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism to the Committee of Experts on Terrorism
14 April	Comments and recommendations on the Draft Federal Law on the selection of judges in Russia
18 May	Mission to the Russian Federation to examine questions related to the independence and integrity of the legal profession
19 August	Open letter to the Prosecutor General of the Republic of Kazakhstan regarding a case of obstruction of work of lawyer Snezhanna Kim
21 September	Mission to the Kyrgyz Republic on the organization and functioning of the legal profession
17–18 November	Research visit to Azerbaijan to examine the situation of lawyers under threat
26–30 October	Mission to Serbia on the independence and self-governance of the judiciary and prosecution
2–4 November	Mission to Kosovo on the integration of the justice system of Northern Kosovo
1–4 December	Mission to Turkey on the independence of judges and lawyers

11 December	Joint submission to the Committee of Ministers Working Party on Reform of the European Convention System on the measures needed to strengthen implementation of ECtHR judgments
	<b>Capacity Building</b>
22 April	Training, in cooperation with Grupa 484 and Praxis, on migration, discrimination and human rights law, Serbia
18 November	Training, in cooperation with Grupa 484 and OSCE, on migration, discrimination and human rights law, Serbia
18 December	Seminar on the independence of the legal profession in Tajikistan
	<b>Legal submissions</b>
2 February	Trial observation in the case of the disbarment of Kalid Baghirov before the Nizami District Court of Baku in Azerbaijan
3 February	Trial observation in the hearing against lawyer Marina Edigeyeva at the Talas City Court of Kyrgyzstan
11 February	Expert opinion on the use of decisions of the UN Committee Against Torture in proceedings before domestic courts in regard to the case of <i>Oleg Evloev v. Kazakhstan</i>
3 March	The ICJ and ECRE fourth joint submission on the situation of the asylum and reception systems in Greece to the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe
9 March	ICJ, ECRE and AIRE Centre third party intervention before the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) in the case <i>Dagmara Bilalova v. Poland</i>
11 March	Trial observation at the Constitutional Chamber of the Kyrgyz Republic concerning a challenge to the constitutionality of the law establishing a unified Bar Association with mandatory membership
8 April	Third party intervention before the ECtHR in the case of <i>Baka v. Hungary</i>
16 June	Legal submission before the ECtHR in the case <i>Annagi Hajibeyli v. Azerbaijan</i> and 28 other applications
17 June	Trial observation before the Supreme Court of the Kyrgyz Republic in the case concerning searches of the workplace and homes of lawyers Valerian Vakhitov and Khusanbay Salieyv by law enforcement agents
26 June	Third party intervention before the ECtHR in the case of <i>Richmond Yaw and others v. Italy</i>
19 October	Legal opinion in the case of the lawyer Bulat Baityakov in Kazakhstan
23 November	The ICJ, the AIRE Centre, AI and ECRE legal submission before the ECtHR in a case against Spain on the denial of entry of asylum seekers in the enclave of Melilla
	<b>UN interventions</b>
19 February	Submission of information to the HRC in advance of its examination of the Russian Federation's seventh periodic report under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)
26 September	Submission to the HRC in advance of the Committee's examination of Greece's compliance with its obligations under the ICCPR
	<b>Middle East and North Africa</b>
	<b>Advocacy interventions</b>
18-23 January	Research mission to Egypt to gather information on prosecutions, trials and disciplinary proceedings against human rights defenders, political suspects, and judges suspected of opposing the military and government
3 February	ICJ condemns mass death penalty trials in Egypt
4 May	Joint statement known as the Tunis Declaration on the Arab Court of Human Rights

13 May	Joint statement calling for the Tunisian authorities to amend or drop a controversial new Security Bill
18 May	ICJ condemns the ongoing egregious human rights violations, including the right to life, by the Egyptian authorities
18 May	Position paper on the Tunisian Law on the High Judicial Council
12 June	Two memos on the Moroccan Draft Organic Law on the High Judicial Council and on the Statute for Judges
12-18 June	Mission to Morocco to present the findings of the ICJ's memoranda on the draft laws on the High Judicial Council and the Statute for Judges and to advocate for reforms
9 July	Position paper on Egypt's draft law on counter-terrorism
6 August	Position paper on Tunisia's law on counter-terrorism
14 August	ICJ calls on the Egyptian authorities to end its policy of impunity for serious human rights violations
14 September	Position paper on the new Tunisian draft law on the High Judicial Council
15 September	Joint statement calling on the United Arab Emirates authorities to lift the travel ban imposed on Ahmed Mansoor (Martin Ennals award nominee)
3 November	Memorandum calling on the Tunisian Parliament to revise the draft law on the Constitutional Court
15-21 November	Mission to Tunisia concerning the criminal justice system and State institutions
7 December	The ICJ calls on the Moroccan authorities to end disciplinary proceedings initiated against Judges Amal Homani and Mohamed Al-Haini
	<b>Capacity Building</b>
8-9 April	Regional conference, in partnership with Legal Agenda, on the Arab Court of Human Rights, Tunisia
27-28 October	Seminar on independence and accountability of the judiciary, Morocco
30-31 October	Workshop on the code of ethics and judicial conduct, Morocco
9-12 November	Conference on the Libyan Draft Constitution, Tunisia
23-24 November	Workshop on international law and standards in the prevention of torture and other ill-treatment: the Tunisian and Egyptian experience, Tunisia
	<b>UN interventions</b>
20 January	Submission to CESCR on the protection of economic, social and cultural rights in Morocco
20 March	Joint letter to the HRC calling for an independent inquiry mechanism into the human rights situation in Libya
29 June	Statement calling on the HRC and the Security Council to respond to the findings of the Independent Commission of Inquiry on the 2014 Gaza conflict
21 September	Statement to the HRC Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic concerning accountability and other measures to address the Syrian conflict
	<b>Global</b>
	<b>Advocacy interventions</b>
25 March	Joint open letter on draft resolution on the effects of terrorism on the enjoyment of human rights
1 July	Joint public statement with AI expressing concern about a proposed resolution on "protection of the family" at the 29th session of the UN HRC
9-13 November	Mission to Peru to investigate and discuss the impact of mining activities on the ESCR of local communities and the repression of social protest in this context
15-21 November	Mission to Colombia to investigate and discuss the impact of the "El Quimbo" hydro-electric project on the ESCR of the local communities
14-15 December	Geneva Forum of Judges and Lawyers on judicial accountability in Geneva



	<b>Capacity Building</b>
5–6 November	Legal strategy workshop on decriminalization of homosexuality in Mauritius, Botswana, Namibia and Myanmar in Mauritius
8–9 October	Seminar on judicial accountability in developing countries, Tunisia
	<b>Legal Submissions</b>
19 May	Joint third-party intervention with the AIRE Centre, AI, ILGA-Europe and UK Lesbian and Gay Immigration Group in the case of <i>A.T. v. Sweden</i> before the ECtHR
8 June	Joint third-party intervention with the AIRE Centre and ILGA-Europe in the case of <i>Klobucar v. Croatia</i> before the ECtHR
8 July	Third-party intervention in the case of <i>A.N. v. France</i> before the ECtHR
21 October	ICJ, AIRE Centre, ECRE and ILGA-Europe third-party intervention before the ECtHR in the case of <i>O.M. v. Hungary</i>
9 November	Joint amicus curiae with JUSTICE, REDRESS and AI in the rendition case Belhadj before the UK Supreme Court
	<b>UN Interventions</b>
2–27 March	Advocacy interventions during 28 <sup>th</sup> session of the HRC on resolutions on the right to privacy, economic, social and cultural rights, drones, and the effects of terrorism
13 March	Joint oral statement calling for establishment of a UN Special Rapporteur on the right to privacy
13 March	Joint oral statement on the administration of justice through military tribunals
18 March	Joint oral statement on the independence of the judiciary in Bolivia
16 March	Submission to the UNWGAD on draft principles and guidelines on habeas corpus
4 May	Submission to CESCR on the elaboration of a new General Comment on article 7 of the ICESCR, the right to just and favourable conditions of work
6 May	Submission to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) on a new General Recommendation on women's access to justice
8 May	Joint submission with the Center for Reproductive Rights to CESCR on Ireland
15 June–3 July	Advocacy interventions during 29 <sup>th</sup> session of the HRC on resolutions on the independence of judges and lawyers, human rights and counter-terrorism
16 June	Input to HRC Resolution on the independence of the judiciary, jurors and assessors, and the independence of lawyers
12 June	Submission to Human Rights Committee (HRCT) on preparation of a General Comment on the Right to Life
15 September	Joint submission to UN proposing indicators on independence of the judiciary and independence of the legal profession, in relation to UN Sustainable Development Goal 16
16 September	Oral Statement in the Interactive Dialogue with the UNWGAD concerning the Working Group's Basic Principles and Guidelines on the right to challenge deprivation of liberty before a court, and the Special Rapporteur on modern slavery, concerning the use of forced and slave labour in supply chains
17 September	Oral statement in Interactive Dialogue with the Working Group on Mercenaries
18 September	Oral statement in General Debate on judicial accountability, and the relationship between enforced disappearances and economic, social and cultural rights
22 September	Joint statement concerning reprisals against human rights defenders and others who cooperate with the United Nations

## Newsletters

ICJ E-Bulletin on counter-terrorism and human rights – nos. 89-98.

## Publications

### Comentario jurídico al artículo 378 del Código Penal de Guatemala “Delito contra los deberes de humanidad”

This legal commentary focuses on article 378 of the Guatemalan Penal Code, the section called “crimes against the duties of humanity”.

### Desaparición forzada y ejecución extrajudicial: Los derechos de los familiares

This tenth book of the ICJ series of Practitioners' Guides was published in Spanish in November 2015. It is a comprehensive resource, with a particular focus on the role of forensic anthropology in the search and identification of victims.

### Drivers of Change: Women Lawyers and Human Rights Defenders in Africa

This paper reflects upon the challenges, risks and opportunities faced by women lawyers and human rights defenders.

### Enforced Disappearance and Extrajudicial Execution: Investigation and Sanction

The ninth book of the ICJ series of Practitioners' Guides was published in English and Spanish during 2015. It is a comprehensive resource with information on the right to remedy and reparations and to truth and justice.

### Judicial Enforcement of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Geneva Forum Series no 2

The publication reflects the discussions at the 2014 Geneva Forum of Judges and Lawyers on judicial enforcement of economic, social and cultural rights.

### Justice Adrift: Rule of Law and the Political Crisis in the Maldives

The report highlights the breakdown of the rule of law and human rights protections in the Maldives, exemplified by the arrest and trial of former President Mohamed Nasheed.

### Legal Commentary on the Right to Challenge the Lawfulness of Detention in Armed Conflict

The ICJ produced a legal commentary on the UN WGAD Basic Principles and Guidelines as they apply to situations of armed conflict, providing clarification and justification with reference to international law and standards.

### Obligations and Actions on Children's Rights and Business

Jointly elaborated by the ICJ and UNICEF, this guide offers practical examples and best practices on how to protect and ensure the realization of the rights of the child in the context of business operations.

### On Trial: the Implementation of Pakistan's Blasphemy Laws

The ICJ documents systematic and widespread violations of the right to a fair trial in proceedings related to blasphemy offences in Pakistan.

### Righting Wrongs: Criminal Law Provisions in the Philippines related to National Security and their Impact on Human Rights Defenders

This report focuses on aspects of existing penal law enacted in the name of national security, used against human rights defenders to unduly limit their right to promote and protect human rights.

### Russian Federation: Court Proceedings in “Foreign Agents” Cases

This trial observation report analyses four cases concerning the implementation of the 2012 amendments to the Russian NGO Law.

### Sexual and Gender-Based Violence, Fair Trial Rights and the Rights of Victims

This paper reflects the discussions in sub-Saharan Africa on the implementation of international law and standards on sexual and gender-based violence within the context of fair trial standards.

**Sexual Violence Against Women: Eradicating Harmful Gender Stereotypes and Assumptions in Laws and Practice**

This briefing paper addresses harmful gender stereotypes and assumptions in law and practice and highlights efforts in a number of countries to reform such law and practice.

**The Arab Court of Human Rights: A Flawed Statute for an Ineffective Court**

In this report, the ICJ highlights numerous failings in the drafting process and the provisions of the Statute that fall short of international standards.

**The Draft Libyan Constitution: Procedural Deficiencies, Substantive Flaws**

The ICJ calls on the Libyan Constitution Drafting Assembly to substantially revise the Draft Constitution published in October with a view to ensuring its full compliance with Libya's obligations under international human rights law and international standards.

**The Failure of Justice, Unfair Trial, Arbitrary Detention and Judicial Impropriety in Swaziland**

This trial observation report covers the trial in 2014 before the High Court in Mbabane, Swaziland, in *The King v. The Nation Magazine, Bheki Makhubu, Swaziland Independent Publishers (Pty) Ltd, and Thulani Maseko*.

**Towards a Stronger Legal Profession in the Russian Federation**

This report analyses the legal framework governing the legal profession in the Russian Federation and discusses practical issues raised during the mission.

**Uruguay: La Lucha por Verdad y Justicia en la Encrucijada**

In this report, the ICJ expresses concerns over the paralysis in efforts to undertake further work to end impunity and uncover the truth and enable justice to be done.

**Venezuela: The Sunset of the Rule of Law**

In this follow-up report, the ICJ underlines that since the publication of its June 2014 report, there have been accelerated, serious and systematic attacks on the independence and impartiality of the judiciary and a severe erosion of the rule of law.



A microscopic image of tissue, possibly a histological section, showing cellular structures. The image is overlaid with a color gradient that transitions from blue on the left to yellow on the right. The tissue appears to have a complex, interconnected network of cells and fibers. The color gradient is applied in a way that highlights certain areas, possibly indicating different tissue components or a specific staining pattern. The overall appearance is that of a dense, cellular structure with varying degrees of contrast and color intensity.

# Acknowledgments



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## Photographs

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