

# International Commission of Jurists Annual Report 2018



**icj**

International  
Commission  
of Jurists

Advocates for Justice and Human Rights

Since 1952 the ICJ has performed a unique and prominent role defending human rights and the rule of law worldwide.

The ICJ's peerless reputation rests on several pillars:

- 60 eminent judges and lawyers — from all parts of the world and all legal systems — with unparalleled knowledge of the law and human rights;
- Cooperating with governments committed to improving their human rights performance;
- Effective balance of diplomacy, constructive criticism, capacity building, and if necessary, 'naming and shaming';
- Unmatched direct access to national judiciaries implementing international standards and improved legislation impacting millions;
- Guiding, training and protecting judges and lawyers worldwide to uphold and implement these standards;
- Working for access to justice for victims, survivors and human rights defenders, in particular from marginalized communities;
- Following a strict result-based management in performance of its projects.

For this effective approach ICJ has been awarded, in the course of its long history, some of the most prestigious international distinctions recognising its legal contribution to the promotion and development of international human rights standards and practice.

Facing renewed assaults on human rights, the world needs, perhaps more than ever, the ICJ's competent, rigorous, and effective defense of the rule of law.

## 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.

## Strategic Goals

In its strategic plan for 2016-2020, the ICJ committed itself to working strategically to strengthen and improve the following areas in line with its Vision and Mission:

- Independence of Judges and Lawyers
- Access to Justice for All
- Accountability for Human Rights Violations and Abuses
- Rule of Law and International Human Rights Standards and Instruments
- Domestic implementation and compliance

## Table of Contents

<b>Message from the ICJ President</b>	7
<b>Message from the Secretary-General</b>	9
<b>Commissioners in Focus</b>	10
<b>Celebrating 60 Years in Geneva</b>	13
<b>ICJ Working Methods</b>	14
<b>ICJ Global Reach</b>	17
<b>Spotlight on the ICJ's Global Accountability Initiative</b>	18
<b>ICJ Strategic Goals</b>	21
Independence of Judges and Lawyers	21
Access to Justice for All	25
Accountability for Human Rights Violations and Abuses	29
The Rule of Law and International Standards and Instruments	32
Domestic Implementation and Compliance with Global and Regional Standards	36
<b>The ICJ-European Institutions Office</b>	40
<b>Media and Communications</b>	42
<b>Financial Report</b>	45
<b>List of Main Publications</b>	49
<b>Acknowledgments</b>	51
<b>Photographs &amp; Impressum</b>	55



## Message from the ICJ President

The ICJ's long-standing work to uphold the international framework underlying human rights protection has never been so important as in the current climate of wholesale assault upon this framework and the very concept of the rule of law. Many of the current challenges to human rights stem from the same issues that we have been dealing with in recent decades. However, there are also new challenges that come from States that would not have been predicted 15 years ago.

The rise of democratically elected, self-styled populist leaders who embrace and espouse authoritarian, nationalistic and xenophobic policies has led to almost unprecedented levels of licence to engage in attacks and incitement against some of the most marginalized in society, including immigrants, asylum seekers and minorities. These leaders have also attacked human rights defenders, civil society organizations, the civilian judiciary, the media, and have arrested opposition leaders and at times have cynically used counter-terrorism laws against and military courts to try peaceful protesters.

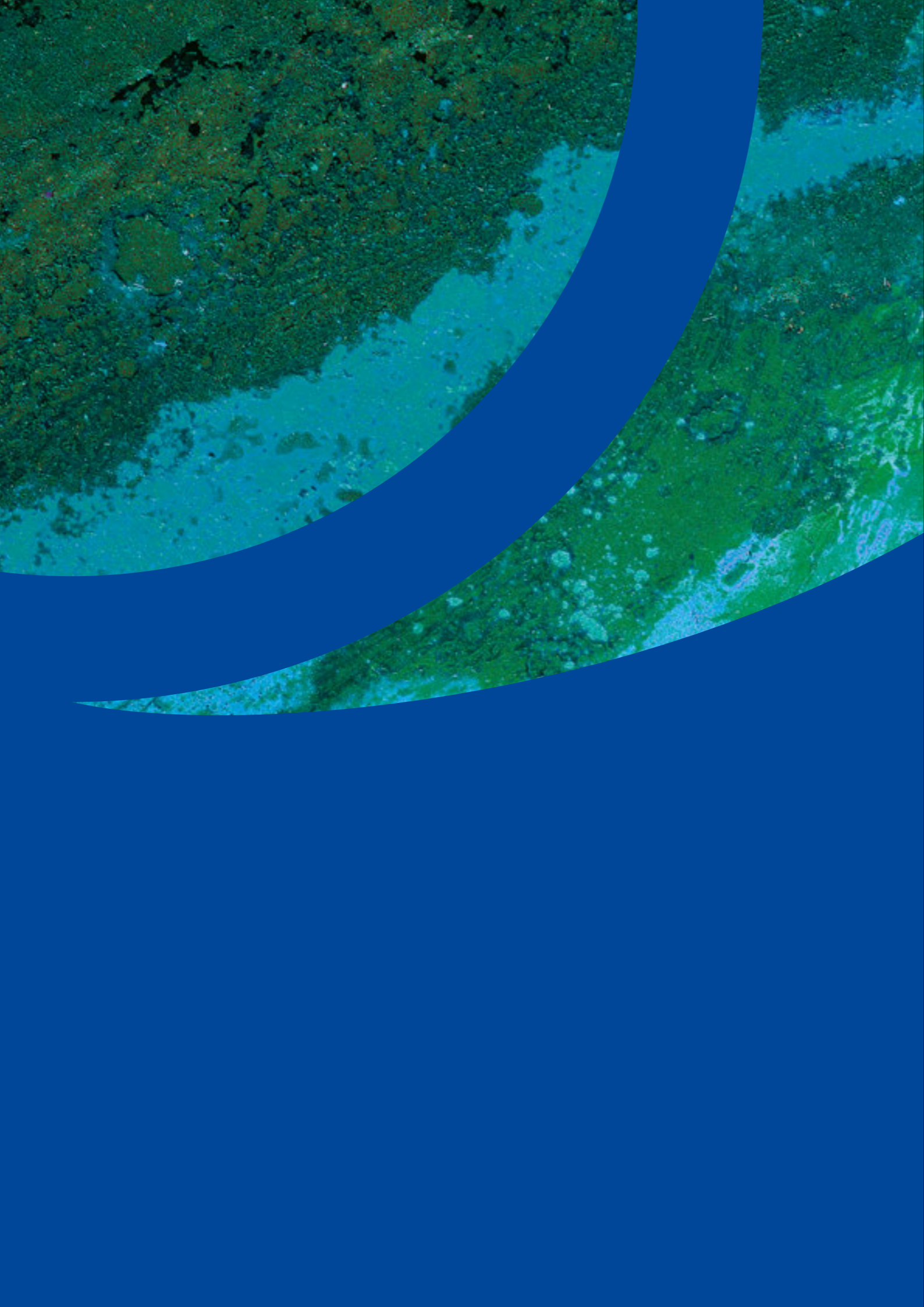
Such practices are exquisitely antithetical to and utterly destructive of the rule of law and the rights-based system that the ICJ has sought to promote and protect over the years.

While these new challenges to human rights are particularly insidious and damaging, the ICJ is well-placed to deal with them by virtue of our unique approach which focuses on the transformative role and potential of the law, of justice institutions and of justice actors. Our ability to influence legal and institutional reform and individual justice actors is unparalleled and this reinforces the relevance and effectiveness of the ICJ.

Accordingly, rule of law issues on the international and regional levels continued to dominate the ICJ's core work in 2018. As indicated in this Report, the ICJ helped to protect the European Court of Human Rights from proposed 'reforms' that would have undermined its ability to operate effectively, and contributed to the UN Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, which recognizes the need to observe human rights in the context of large movements of peoples. As part of our global and regional efforts to strengthen independent and accountable judicial systems, the ICJ contributed to the elaboration of the Lilongwe Principles on the Appointment of Judicial Officers and was actively engaged with the UN Global Judicial Integrity Network. In addition, we continued our work on traditional and customary justice systems and the opportunities they offer for enabling access to justice consistent with internationally recognized fair trial standards.

Finally, it is worth noting that 2018 marked the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Given the current climate, it is altogether fitting to recall and reflect on why this seminal document was adopted and why it envisions that human rights be protected by the rule of law. Accordingly, the ICJ will continue to work vigorously to uphold the rule of law around the world, always mindful that what we do is ultimately intended to benefit all rights holders in all places and in all contexts.

Professor Robert K. Goldman  
ICJ President



## Message from the Secretary-General

The ICJ's mission of protecting and promoting the rule of law and human rights remains as painfully relevant today as it was at the time of the organization's founding in 1952. The world has changed quite a bit since then and has improved in many ways, and the ICJ can credibly claim to have played a crucial role in bringing about some of these improvements. However, these improvements are not enough and nor are they sustainable without ongoing vigilance and defence.

2018 has seen setbacks in some areas of human rights but progress in others and this report intends to share with you some of our efforts to face the challenges and foster the successes. In this year's annual report you will find examples of the different types of work the ICJ has carried out and the extent to which our work expands across a global stage. The report includes a spotlight on our relatively new Global Accountability Initiative and then sets out some of the activities that were undertaken last year in the context of the organization's five strategic goals.

I am pleased to say that the ICJ is recognized today as global advocates for justice and human rights and this is due to the inspiring and powerful efforts of the ICJ's Commissioners, Honorary Members, Sections and Affiliates, supported by a dedicated Secretariat. I am also immensely grateful for the support of all our partners and donors that inform and facilitate our work as global advocates for justice and human rights.

Saman Zia-Zarifi  
Secretary-General

## Commissioners in Focus

The sixty eminent jurists who make up the ICJ's Commissioners, coming from across the globe as depicted in the above map, provide the expertise and dedication that set the ICJ apart from other non-governmental organizations.

In 2018 the ICJ was delighted to welcome twelve new Commissioners to the organization: Justice Chinara Aidarbekova (Kyrgyzstan), Dame Silvia Cartwright (New Zealand), Professor Sarah Cleveland (USA), Justice Martine Comte (France), Gamal Eid (Egypt), Jamesina Essie L. King (Sierra Leone), Justice Willy Mutunga (Kenya), Mikiko Otani (Japan), Michael Sfard (Israel), Ambiga Sreenevasan (Malaysia), Wilder Tayler (Uruguay), and Justice Lillian Tibatemwa-Ekirikubinza (Uganda).

ICJ Commissioner Justice Lillian Tibatemwa-Ekirikubinza is a Justice of the Supreme Court of Uganda who prior to her judicial career facilitated training of judicial officers in various areas such as mainstreaming gender in judicial processes, public interest litigation and adjudicating the right to health.

*"In today's global world, meaningful promotion of the universality of human rights calls for involvement of actors from across the globe. I value the ICJ not only for its proactive promotion of the rule of law but also its unique use of legal expertise from around the world."*

Our Commissioners donate approximately 600 hours pro bono time a year to help support and drive the organization in all aspects of its work. In 2018 Commissioners contributed substantially to the work of the organization through formal and informal advice, peer review, and engagement in activities including trial observations, fact-finding missions, capacity-building, and advocacy and visibility campaigns.

For instance: In April 2018 ICJ President Robert Goldman, Vice-President Carlos Ayala and ICJ Executive Committee member Justice Sanji Monageng joined forces with other respected jurists in a panel discussion on the continued role of the rule of law in the 70th anniversary year of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. In September 2018, Justice Sanji Monageng also participated in three events: on gross human rights violations in Myanmar, on ensuring a women-centred approach to access to justice, and a panel discussion on the UN's role in documenting violations and preserving evidence of international crimes.

ICJ Commissioner Ambiga Sreenevasan is a Malaysian lawyer and human rights advocate who has served as President of the Malaysian Bar. She has worked extensively on issues relating to the rule of law, the judiciary, the administration of justice, legal aid, religious conversion and other human rights issues.

*"The alarming attacks on the rule of law, even in countries that purport to be mature democracies, make ICJ's work more urgent. The ICJ's work in standard setting, capacity building and research has been invaluable. It is a powerful and necessary voice in holding governments accountable. My work as an activist was confined more to what was happening at home in Malaysia. However, I have realised that uniting with international legal experts to strengthen the rule of law is necessary in a borderless and interdependent world and strengthens the work we do domestically. It is my honour to serve as a Commissioner in this respected organisation."*

The ICJ Secretariat is increasingly relying on Commissioners working in advisory groups dedicated to a region or an area of law.

In June 2018 ICJ Commissioners from the Latin America region (Carlos Ayala, Miguel Carbonell, Roberto Garretón, Juan Mendez, Victor Rodriguez Rescia, Alejandro Salinas Rivera, Mónica Pinto, Belisário dos Santos Júnior, and Wilder Tayler) came together in Bogotá, Colombia, to consider and enhance ICJ strategies to combat past and resurging trends in extrajudicial executions and enforced disappearances in the region.

The Global Accountability Initiative is supported by an advisory group that are regularly consulted for guidance and that is composed of ICJ Commissioners Imrana Jalal, Juan Mendez, Jarna Petman and former Commissioner Andrew Clapham.

ICJ Executive Committee Chair Roberta Clarke and ICJ Commissioner Elizabeth Evatt provided advice and mentoring to a group of women human rights defenders gaining experience of UN human rights mechanisms.

At country level, the interventions of ICJ's Commissioners throughout 2018 have continued to prove effective in accessing and engaging in high-level advocacy. In Asia, ICJ Executive Committee Chair Roberta Clarke and ICJ Commissioner Mikiko Otani were actively involved in a regional judicial dialogue on women's rights. Justice John O'Meally joined a fact-finding mission about the garment industry in Indonesia. In Eswatini, ICJ Commissioner Justice Mabuza supported the ICJ's initiatives to promote redress and accountability for sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). In Central America, ICJ Commissioner Alejandro Salinas Rivera shared with Guatemalan judges the experience of Chile in developing a National Plan on Human Rights. In the Middle East and North Africa region ICJ Commissioner Justice Martine Comte shared best practices for the adjudication of SGBV cases and protection of victims. In Central Asia, the ICJ undertook work in Uzbekistan to identify some of the main obstacles impeding access to justice for ESC rights joined by ICJ Commissioner Jarna Petman and informed by the expertise of ICJ Commissioner Gulnora Ishankhanova.

ICJ Commissioner Michael Sfard is an Israeli lawyer specializing in international human rights law and the laws of war with a special emphasis on belligerent occupation. He is the legal adviser to several Israeli human rights organizations and represents Israeli and Palestinian activists.

*"For me the ICJ was always a central and key actor in the fight to protect human rights in general and the independence and freedom of legal human rights activists in particular. Living in times when liberal values seen historically as basic features of democracies are in decline, and practicing Human Rights Law in a country (Israel) which goes through a frightening process of adopting measures and policies aimed at silencing its government's critics, the role of the ICJ becomes ever more relevant to my life and work."*

## 2018 Progress Report: A Year in Review

The ICJ continued to make meaningful contributions to human rights at local, national, regional and global levels

### January •

- Submission to the UN Committee against Torture on Azerbaijan

### February •

- Release of a memo on removing obstacles to access to the Constitutional Court in Morocco

### March •

- Conduct of an orientation workshop for newly-appointed high court judges in Zimbabwe

### April •

- Panel discussion with diplomats, academics and legal experts on the 'end of the rule of law'

### May •

- First regional workshop on the investigation of potentially unlawful deaths and enforced disappearance in Asia

### June •

- Regional meeting & mission of ICJ Latin America Commissioners on transitional justice in Colombia

### July •

- Release of report Justice Suspended— Access to Justice and State of Emergency in Turkey

### August •

- Publication of the Questions & Answers legal briefing on the crime of genocide in Myanmar

### September •

- Conduct of UN side event & other advocacy on accountability for gross human rights violations in Myanmar

### October •

- Seminars for judges, prosecutors and lawyers from Libya on international fair trial standards and submissions before the ICC

### November •

- Release of 2018 update to Practitioners' Guide No 2 on the right to a remedy and reparation for gross human rights violations

### December •

- Geneva Forum of Judges and Lawyers on traditional and customary justice systems in Asia

## Celebrating 60 Years in Geneva

2018 marked the 60th anniversary of the ICJ's presence in Geneva, making the organization one of the earliest international organizations to establish its headquarters in Geneva at the initiative of Jean-Flavien Lalive, then the organization's Secretary General.

To commemorate the anniversary the ICJ organized a publicity campaign across Geneva and held a series of high-profile events highlighting the organization's history and ongoing efforts.

Sir Nicolas Bratza, Executive Committee Member and former President of the European Court of Human Rights, gave a moving speech about the importance of the defence of the rule of law to open a gala evening at the Residence of the UK Ambassador to the United Nations.

*"Anniversaries are always important occasions and never more so than when they mark a milestone in the life of a remarkable organization that has, throughout its existence, worked tirelessly to safeguard the rule of law and human rights and that has done so, in particular, by protecting and defending the independence of judges." ICJ Executive Committee member Sir Nicolas Bratza*

At a public event at Geneva's Palais Eynard, Vice-Presidents Carlos Ayala and Justice Radmila Dragicevic-Dicic and Executive Committee member Dame Silvia Cartwright discussed the supremacy of the Rule of Law and the important relationship that the ICJ has had with Geneva over the past six decades.

*"This is the time when human rights must be protected, when we must fight to maintain the norms we have struggled for so long." ICJ Executive Committee member Dame Silvia Cartwright*

## ICJ working methods

The ICJ is an organization of lawyers advocating globally in pursuing of justice and human rights. In this pursuit, the organization uses a number of different tools to encourage progress in human rights and to safeguard against backsliding on human rights commitments—tools that can be adapted to bring about a change in global standards as well as tools that can focus on an individual case in a particular country, and everything in between. More information about our work can be found in the following pages but below are some highlights from 2018 demonstrating some of the ICJ's working methods.

### Strategic litigation

*Advancing legal standards (or highlighting their absence) through strategic litigation is a major part of the ICJ's work around the world.*

In 2018 the ICJ, jointly with the European Council for Refugees and Exiles (ECRE) and in association with the Greek Council for Refugees (GCR), lodged a collective complaint with the European Committee on Social Rights (ECSR) concerning violations of the economic and social rights of migrant children in Greece. The complaint drew on comprehensive research on the living conditions of migrant children in Greece and the impact of those conditions on their physical and mental health and their safety, and analysed this in terms of Greece's obligations under the European Social Charter. In May 2019, the ECSR issued an interim decision finding the complaint admissible. In addition, in response to the ICJ's urgent call to immediately alleviate the situation faced by the children concerned, the ECSR took the unusual step of issuing "immediate measures" requiring the Greek government to take urgent steps to protect the rights of the children, pending the Committee's final decision on the merits of the case. This legal challenge could pave the way for substantive change in the protection of some of society's most vulnerable people in Greece, and has the potential to further influence law and practice elsewhere in the Council of Europe.

### Trial observations

*The ICJ is routinely called upon to observe and opine on the conduct of judicial proceedings; at times, the mere presence of our observers can have a salutary effect, while in other cases our documentation of compliance with due process standards serves as an important part of the historical record.*

In 2018 the ICJ observed five trials in Guatemala and was pleased to note the justice system has taken positive steps towards redress and accountability in four of the five trials observed. This includes the sentencing in May 2018 of four retired senior members of the Guatemalan military, including two high-ranking officers previously thought to be untouchable, of prison sentences ranging from 33 to 58 years for the illegal detention, torture and sexual abuse of Emma Molina Theissen, amounting to crimes against humanity, while she was in military detention in 1981.

### Defending human rights defenders

*To sustain and develop the rule of law, the ICJ must and does work closely with human rights defenders around the world. We are often involved in defending HRDs when they face retribution from the powerful, or when they need our help in using the legal system to advance their cause.*

In Zimbabwe, the ICJ provided support for the emergency evacuation of nine lawyers and other human rights defenders facing immediate threats in the aftermath of the July 2018 elections. The ICJ's intervention enabled these individuals to continue their important work advocating for human rights in Zimbabwe but from a safe distance until the situation improves.

### Advocacy engagement with international mechanisms

*The ICJ systematically engages with the regional and international mechanisms that uphold a global rights framework by supporting and strengthening these mechanisms to ensure they remain fit for purpose in protecting and promoting the rights for all in an increasingly challenging world context.*

In October 2018 the ICJ submitted oral and written recommendations in advance of the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights' first ever examination of South Africa's periodic report under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR). The ICJ's recommendations focused on the right to work and right to an adequate standard of living and were mostly taken up by the Committee. In its concluding observations, the Committee recognized that while progressive the South Africa Constitution had not fully incorporated the rights enshrined in the ICESCR thereby reducing the justiciability of these rights before domestic courts. It also recommended that South Africa enhance training for judges, prosecutors, lawyers and public officials on the ICESCR and strengthen the capacity of the South African Judicial Education Institute to that end, which endorses work that the ICJ has already been doing with the Judicial Education Institute on housing rights. The ICJ will continue pressing for, through informed advocacy and capacity-building, the implementation of these recommendations which could lead to legal reform aligning the South Africa Constitution and domestic legislation with the ICESCR.

### Capacity Building

*The ICJ routinely works with partners and networks to boost the capacity of those most invested in rights protections at a local level to ensure these rights defenders have all the tools at their disposal to carry out their important work as effectively as possible.*

In early 2018 the ICJ conducted a series of discussions with the Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP) to develop a programme integrating a human rights based approach and a gender perspective within the legal profession in that country. In May and October the ICJ conducted two workshops on eliminating gender discriminatory attitudes and behaviours towards women in the Philippines. Participants stated that the workshop helped them realize the requirement to be more responsive to the needs of female clients. They also stated that they felt better able to assist women in navigating the justice system by informing them of their rights and offering them advice on dealing with gender discriminatory behaviour exhibited by other justice actors. An additional outcome of these workshops was a recommendation to set up within the IBP a Gender and Development Committee. The Committee has already begun implementing its mandate and as a result ICJ Commissioner Mikiko Otani spoke about the importance of advancing gender equality in the legal profession at the 2019 IBP National Convention.



## ICJ Global Reach

Overview of ICJ 's 2018 results

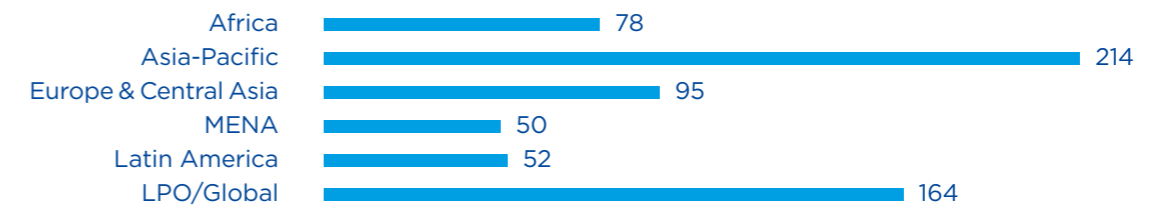
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Activities were undertaken by the ICJ globally, regionally and in more than 50 Countries across the globe (+55% Compared to 2017)

+4,310

Judges, prosecutors, lawyers, other justice Sector actors, HRDS, civil Society actors, public Officials and others took Part in ICJ's workshops and meetings

### Overview of activities by programme



## Spotlight on the ICJ's Global Accountability Initiative



The ICJ's Global Accountability Initiative was established in 2017 and strengthened in 2018 with the aim of consolidating and strengthening the ICJ's longstanding work on combatting impunity and promoting redress for gross human rights violations around the world through the entrenchment of the rule of law.

The Initiative pools the knowledge and efforts of the ICJ's various regional and thematic programmes so that activities to combat impunity can be specifically tailored to different global, regional and country situations enabling more effective and timely responses to emerging challenges.

The Initiative strengthens the ICJ's multifaceted approach to seeking global justice and redress by:

- evaluating the legal and institutional obstacles to accountability in various countries;
- strengthening access to justice and accountability mechanisms;
- supporting litigation for individuals as well as strategic litigation;
- training and building the capacity to seek and deliver justice for judges, lawyers, victims and human rights defenders; and
- advocacy for improving accountability mechanisms at the national, regional, and global levels.

These activities have been implemented across the world, including most recently in Cambodia, Colombia, Eswatini (Swaziland), Lao PDR, Myanmar, Nepal, Tajikistan, Tunisia, Turkey, Venezuela and Yemen. Some highlights of activities are set out below.

### **Cambodia: countering the weaponization of law and challenging impunity**

In October 2017 the Initiative released a report on *"Achieving justice for gross human rights violations in Cambodia"* which raised concerns about the Cambodian Government's weaponization of the rule of law and reliance on judges and prosecutors that lack independence to silence dissent, dismantle democracy and enable impunity. Throughout 2018 the ICJ built upon this work through a series of advocacy efforts and local capacity building initiatives. The ICJ shared submission drafting and advocacy techniques for Universal Periodic Review submissions in a workshop for members of Cambodian civil society. A number of statements were issued, including at the United Nations, concerned about the Government's misuse of law to repress opposition and prevent accountability. The ICJ also testified before the Canadian House of Commons Subcommittee on International Human Rights on the human rights and rule of law crisis in Cambodia.

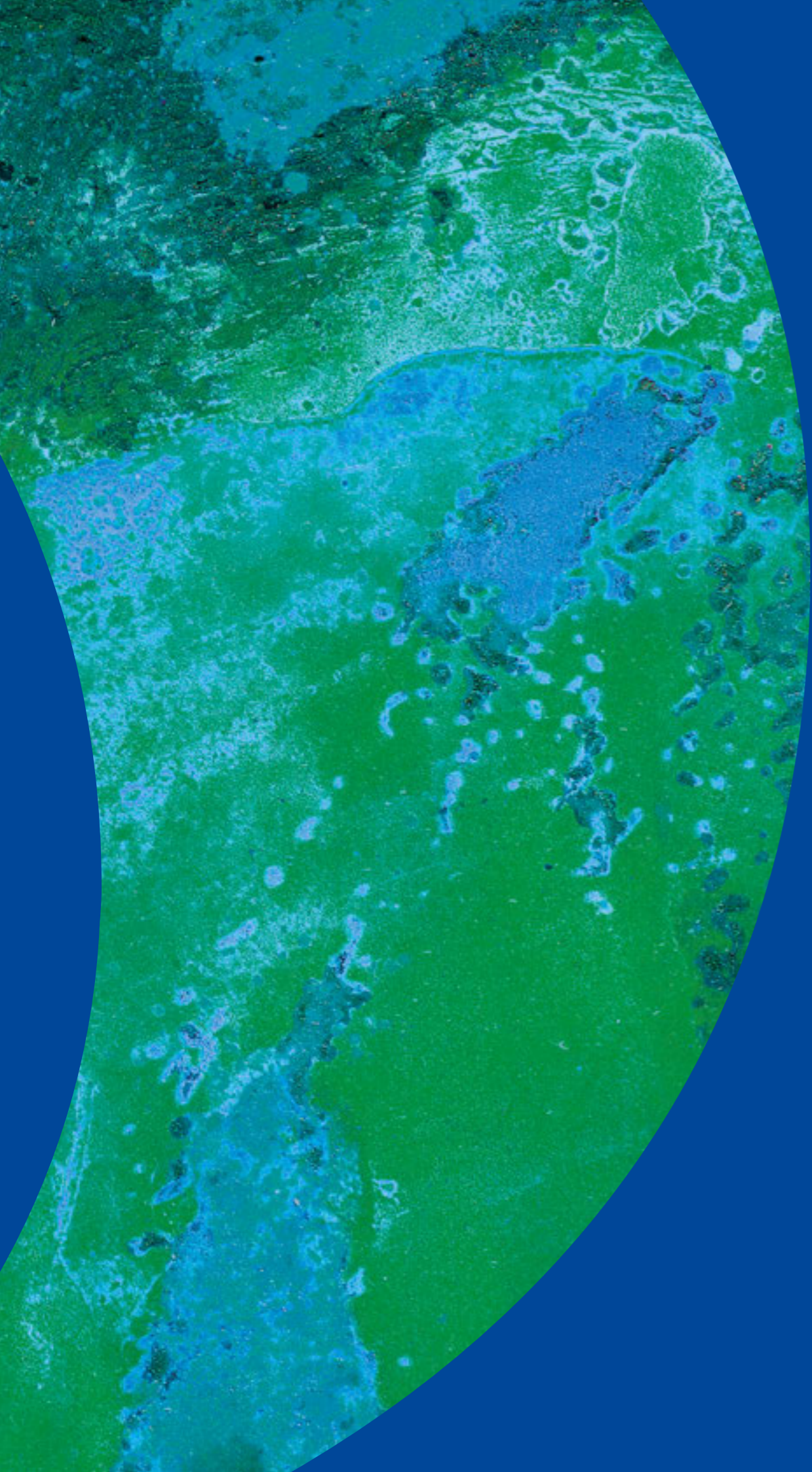
### **Eswatini: national advocacy to align the legal framework on sexual and gender based violence with applicable regional and international human rights standards**

Throughout 2018, the Initiative undertook and supported national advocacy on combatting sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) in Eswatini, through a combination of partnership building, capacity-building, research, publication and advocacy. The ICJ organized a capacity building workshop for civil society representatives in February 2018 to discuss the prevalence of and issues surrounding SGBV in the country. Following the workshop the ICJ launched a study on *'Key challenges to combating impunity and achieving redress for gross human rights violations in Swaziland'*. In March 2018 the ICJ, facilitated by ICJ Commissioner and Eswatini Supreme Court Justice Qinisile Mabuza, held constructive meetings with senior officials in Eswatini on combatting SGBV. At the request of local civil society organizations, the ICJ submitted a briefing note to the Senate of Swaziland emphasizing that urgent enactment of the *'Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence Bill 2015'* was a matter required of the Kingdom pursuant to its regional and universal human rights law obligations to criminalize and sanction the perpetrators of SGBV. The Senate ultimately passed the Bill, which was given the King's royal assent on 18 July 2018. The new law for the first time criminalizes marital rape and other domestic violence offences.

*"The passing of the SODV Act was a phenomenal achievement. I congratulate all the stakeholders for their persistence and tireless hard work over so many years since the draft bill first emerged and in particular lobbying in the House of Assembly. I am equally pleased that the ICJ was able to form part of the stakeholders during its passage through Senate."* ICJ Commissioner and Supreme Court Justice Qinisile Mabuza from Eswatini

### **Venezuela: advocacy to counter attempts to deny accountability for human rights violations**

The ICJ continued its work on the worrying human rights situation in Venezuela, building upon last years' report on Venezuela's Supreme Court of Justice. In April and May 2018 the ICJ issued two reports in Spanish raising concerns about the trials of civilians by military courts resulting in the violation of the right to an independent, impartial and competent tribunal, which is incompatible with international law and standards on the administration of justice. Throughout 2018 advocacy efforts included statements at the UN Human Rights Council (HRC) and condemning Venezuela's attempts to further deny accountability through its denunciation of the Organization of American States (OAS) Charter. Coordinated lobbying efforts during the September HRC session contributed to the adoption of an HRC Resolution in which the Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights (OHCHR) was provided with an express mandate to prepare a comprehensive written report on the human rights situation in Venezuela and to present this to the HRC at its session in June-July 2019. This mandate clearly signals international concern about the situation in Venezuela and alleviated the need for the OHCHR to continue to investigate the human rights situation in Venezuela of its own initiative, which carried a potentially negative political dimension.



## ICJ Strategic Goals

### 1 Independence of Judges and Lawyers

A robustly independent, impartial and accountable judiciary is the cornerstone of upholding human rights through the rule of law and has been at the heart of the ICJ's mandate since the organization began in 1952.

*"The perception of judges' legitimacy requires not only that the judges uphold the highest standards of integrity and independence, but also that States respect judicial independence and do not undermine judicial decisions. A successful judiciary is one whose members are appointed following a rigorous process assessing both the candidate's legal qualifications as well as integrity." ICJ Commissioner and Executive Committee member Justice Sanji Monageng from Botswana, who served until 2018 as Judge of the International Criminal Court*

The ICJ works closely with judges, lawyers and prosecutors to ensure the implementation and elaboration of international standards that safeguard human rights in the justice system. The ICJ firmly believes that judges, lawyers and prosecutors have a dynamic role to uphold the rule of law but that judicial actors must also be accountable to those that rely on them to deliver justice. The ICJ works hard to pursue accountability while safeguarding judicial independence. The ICJ also provides training around the world to judicial stakeholders on international standards for an independent and accountable judiciary to enhance global protection and promotion of human rights.

In 2018 the ICJ undertook specific work on the independence of judges, lawyers and other human rights defenders (HRDs) in Azerbaijan, China, Guatemala, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, Libya, Lesotho, the Maldives, Myanmar, the Philippines, Poland, the Russian Federation, Serbia, South Korea, Tajikistan, Tunisia, Venezuela and Zimbabwe.

#### 1.1 Azerbaijan: building critical space for engagement on independence of the legal profession

Azerbaijan has proved a challenging context for the independence of the legal profession since the formally independent Bar Association of Azerbaijan became weaponized to exert executive control over lawyers. In 2016 the ICJ produced a critical report on the state of the Azeri judiciary and the Azeri Bar Association refused to engage with the ICJ at all for a number of years.

On 15 and 16 November the Bar Association, following a change of leadership and an approach by the ICJ, agreed to co-operate with the ICJ and the Council of Europe to hold a conference on the role and independence of lawyers. The Conference enabled Azeri lawyers to engage with other lawyers from across Europe and Central Asia and created much-needed space for further dialogue on the issue of independence of lawyers in Azerbaijan both with national and international stakeholders.

Although the situation of lawyers in the country remains fraught, and abusive disciplinary proceedings are continuing, there is now greater space for national advocacy to strengthen safeguards in these proceedings in light of international law and standards.

### 1.2 Defending human rights defenders in Africa

The ICJ works to strengthen independent associations of judges and lawyers, as well as coalitions of human rights defenders, as credible, capable actors to shield judges, lawyers and HRDs from attacks.

In 2018, the ICJ has been driving the development of the Monomotapa Plan of Action in support of judicial independence in Africa and supported the development of judges' networks such as the Africa Judges' and Jurists' Forum.

The ICJ has also helped to develop and support coalitions of HRDs such as the Southern African Human Rights Defenders Network (SAHRDN), which coordinates the protection and security of HRDs in eight countries: Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe. In 2018, the ICJ provided training on use of African human rights mechanisms and took protective actions for HRDs in the region in relation to economic, social and cultural rights.

*"In societies such as the southern African countries characterised by weak, timid and even non-existing institutions, and a glaring deficit of democracy generally, the ICJ's programme is a natural first priority. The ICJ human rights defenders' programme added significantly towards leveraging the trilog of a basic social need in the region: stronger protection of human rights, good governance and peace." ICJ Commissioner Professor Michelo Hansungule from Zambia, and Professor of Human Rights Law, University of Pretoria, South Africa*

### 1.3 Building strong legal networks in Central Asia

*"During the reform of bar association in Tajikistan I have used positive practice of Central Asian countries, which was shared during the conference in Almaty organized by the ICJ." Lawyer, Tajikistan*

*"I have trained the judges in Tajikistan on the international standards, and recommendations of the UN Committees and ICJ." Supreme Court Justice, Tajikistan*

In November 2018, the ICJ organized a regional conference on the role and protection of lawyers in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, building on work it has been doing in the region to support lawyers facing pressure or harassment and develop strong networks. This gives lawyers the capacity to shield themselves from persecution and undue influence, and act with independence, integrity and competence when defending the human rights of their clients.

Although additional follow-up is needed to ensure that this translates into practice, with lawyers and Bar Associations taking action to act more independently, it is encouraging that conference attendees



reported an improved awareness of safeguards for lawyers' activities in the region.

### 1.4 Myanmar: Technical assistance to the Supreme Court and the Attorney General's Office

In December 2018 the ICJ continued to provide technical assistance to the Office of the Supreme Court of the Union (OSCU) in Myanmar to enhance the capacity of the judiciary to assert its independence so as to ensure access to justice, uphold human rights and build public confidence in justice institutions.

Previously the ICJ helped the OSCU to develop a Code of Ethics and a Strategic Plan explicitly focusing on key aspects of judicial independence and accountability. In December 2018, a Commentary to the Code of Ethics was finalized that will assist judges in better implementing the provisions of the Code.

Additionally, on the basis of a new fair trial rights manual and the new Union Attorney General's Office Code of Ethics, both endorsed by the Attorney General and drafted with the ICJ's extensive assistance, workshops were held on prosecutorial ethics and fair trial rights for 75 new recruits and 150 existing senior prosecutors from across the country.

Although it remains too early to assess how well these initiatives help judges and prosecutors act according to international law and standards of independence, competence and integrity, this provides a necessary framework for such conduct to become more systematic which would ultimately benefit rights-holders seeking justice in Myanmar.

*"I joined one of very first ICJ missions in Myanmar in 2015 and have kept a very strong impression of the situation there and the importance of continued ICJ engagement. We, as the commissioners and as judges shared our experiences with judges of Myanmar, we understood all the heaviness of their position, but, as I felt, helped them to realize that they are not alone, that there is a way to start reforms and fight for the dignity of their judicial profession, the independency of judiciary, which means a better future for their country. There is still a long way to go and a big battle to fight. The ICJ was there at the very beginning and still is there showing that the fight for an independent judiciary is of the most importance and that our commissioners are willing to contribute to any place where it is needed." ICJ Vice-President Justice Radmila Dragicevic-Dicic from Serbia, and Supreme Court Justice of Serbia*



### 1.5 Guatemala: supporting independent judicial associations to provide justice to rights-holders

Judicial operations in Guatemala continue to be undermined by corruption, partiality and a lack of independence. However, the ICJ continued to provide extensive support to the independent Guatemalan Association of Judges for Integrity (AGJI) who strive to maintain integrity and independence in the judiciary despite the serious threats that are often faced in their doing so.

In October 2018, the ICJ organized a sixth regional conference of independent judges' associations, which enabled independent judges to learn from each other and strengthen networks nationally, regionally and internationally.

Learning from the Honduran Association of Judges for Democracy the AGJI decided to develop a website to publish relevant rulings in Guatemala. This will inform judges in adjudicating future cases and also increase the visibility of independent judges as a means of public protection.

#### 1.6 Regional guidelines on appointment of judges in Africa

The ICJ has long worked with the Southern African Chief Justices Forum (SACJF) to promote a legal and operational framework that allows for more judicial independence and accountability. In 2018 the ICJ's sustained advocacy and technical support paid off when the Southern African Chief Justices' Forum adopted regional guidelines for the appointment of judges, the *Lilongwe Principles and Guidelines on the Selection and Appointment of Judicial Officers*. This marks an important step toward strengthening the independence, impartiality and integrity of the judiciary in this region and, ultimately, promoting a fair and effective administration of justice for all right-holders in the region.

*"The adoption of the Lilongwe Guidelines by the Southern African Chief Justices Forum (SACJF) signifies the beginning of a new chapter in the region in ensuring that Judicial Appointments are credible and transparent." ICJ Commissioner Justice Charles Mkandawire from Malawi, current President of the Commonwealth Judges and Magistrates Association*

The *Lilongwe Principles* provide solid guidance that States can refer to while undertaking their judicial selection and appointment process. They also offer an important legal tool for members of the judiciary and legal profession, HRDs, NGOs, and other relevant stakeholders to use while pressing decision-makers to ensure greater judicial independence and fairer administration of justice.

## 2 Access to Justice for All

Justice must be accessible to everyone for human rights to be upheld in a meaningful way and the ICJ has been committed to ensuring access to justice for everyone, particularly the most marginalized and vulnerable, for many years.

The ICJ has prepared publications, undertaken advocacy and led capacity-building efforts with judges, lawyers, HRDs and other justice sector actors to enhance justice delivery for victims of human rights violations around the world.

*"Strengthening access to justice for all is a key component of the Commission's five objectives, because together with the independence of judges and lawyers, it is, so to speak, the sine qua non condition for the full and effective implementation of the other three objectives, namely, accountability for human rights violations, the Rule of Law and international standards, and domestic implementation and compliance with international standards." ICJ Commissioner Justice Fatsah Ouguergouz from Algeria*

In 2018 the ICJ has undertaken access to justice work in relation to a number of countries including Azerbaijan, the Czech Republic, Egypt, Eswatini, Greece, Guatemala, India, Italy, Morocco, Myanmar, Nigeria, the Philippines, the Russian Federation, Spain, Swaziland, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey and Uzbekistan.

#### 2.1 South and South East Asia: integrating a gender perspective into judicial decision-making

For many years the ICJ has worked to increase awareness of the Convention for the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) amongst judicial stakeholders to help overcome barriers in accessing justice that are faced by many women, who are often marginalized and disadvantaged within their communities.

Since 2015 the ICJ has worked on the promotion, development and adoption of the *Bangkok General Guidance for Judges on Applying a Gender Perspective* to ensure that women's rights are upheld and protected by the judiciary even in cases that seemingly did not have a direct impact on women's full enjoyment of those rights.

In September 2018 the ICJ convened a judicial dialogue for South Asian judges on women's human rights and the right to a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment. Participants found the seminar had increased their knowledge of the subject matter, including of CEDAW. In December 2018 the ICJ convened a judicial dialogue for South East Asian judges that brought together senior judges from Thailand, the Philippines, and Indonesia. Attendees expressed a strong interest in using training resources on CEDAW and the *Bangkok General Guidance* to build the capacity of their peers in their own countries.

*"The workshop has improved my knowledge. I will use it in my work as a Judge and also in conducting training sessions of judges in my country." Judge, Pakistan*

## 2.2 Morocco: Strides made in tackling gender discrimination and obstacles to access to justice for women

*"In order to ensure that sexual and gender violence cases can really be taken in charge by justice, it is essential that the whole society, including judges and prosecutors, lawyers and victims themselves, and especially women, become aware that nothing may justify attacks of moral and physical integrity. Therefore, it is a top priority to ban a tolerant outlook towards this kind of violence, to stop it and to fully take in consideration the reality of these unacceptable acts, and all the subsequent damages, including economical consequences." ICJ Commissioner Justice Martine Comte from France, Former President of the Court of Appeal of Orléans*

The ICJ has undertaken a multi-pronged approach to overcoming obstacles to access to justice for women in Morocco, with two clear results in 2018.

First, In June 2018, the General Prosecutor issued instructions to all prosecutors across the country on the prosecution of sexual and gender based violence (SGBV), which endorsed many ICJ recommendations put forward in its report, *Ensuring the Effective Investigation and Prosecution of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Against Women and Girls*, published the preceding year. If adequately implemented, these instructions could pave the way for more gender-sensitive and responsive practices amongst prosecutors, and fairer prosecutions of SGBV cases, allowing victims in Morocco to effectively exercise their human rights, including right to equality, as well as to obtain redress.

Second, the ICJ effectively contributed to removing barriers to individuals' access to the Constitutional Court, via a widely publicized memorandum and additional advocacy. A Constitutional Court decision echoed many of the ICJ's concerns and recommendations. This development is significant as it opens the door for direct strategic litigation before the Constitutional Court, to challenge key discriminatory legal provisions relating to women's human rights.

## 2.3 Progress in the development of guidance on the role of indigenous and other traditional or customary justice systems in relation to access to justice

For marginalized and disadvantaged rural populations in developing countries, indigenous and other traditional and customary courts may in practical terms be the only form of access they have to any kind of justice. At the same time, such systems raise a series of questions in terms of their compliance with international fair trial and rule of law standards, and the impact these systems have on human rights including particularly those of women and children.

In December 2018 the ICJ convened a regional judicial consultation in Bangkok, Thailand, as part of a multi-year project to analyse the potential and effects of indigenous and other traditional or customary justice systems in ensuring access to justice.



An outcome of this was that the UN Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples who participated in the consultation decided to dedicate her 2019 report to the UN on this topic. This UN report will set out important conclusions and recommendations to States with a view to ensuring that customary and traditional justice systems provide equal and effective access to justice to all. Should States comply with and implement these UN recommendations, all rights-holders accessing these justice systems may benefit from an independent, impartial and competent administration of justice to their cases, along with respect for fundamental guarantees of fairness, accountable decisions, and non-discrimination in the administration of their case.

## 2.4 India: landmark decision repealing the criminalization of consensual same-sex relationships

In September 2018, the Supreme Court of India struck down section 377 of the penal code, a relic of British colonial rule that criminalized consensual same-sex relationships. The Supreme Court recognized that section 377 was in violation of individuals' fundamental rights to equality, non-discrimination, life with dignity, and privacy as per the Indian Constitution as well as in breach of India's obligations under international law.

The Supreme Court judgement directly cited the ICJ's 2017 report, *Unnatural Offences: Obstacles to Justice in India based on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI)*, in its decision to highlight the harassment and violence by state actors against LGBTI persons.

The Court recognized that section 377 interacted with other domestic laws to produce a climate of oppression and to perpetuate stigma around non-normative gender and sexual identities.

*"This ruling of the Supreme Court will not only impact India, but will also undoubtedly have immense transnational value. The effect of this judgement is likely to be felt in other common law countries, and it will, hopefully, provide an impetus to those countries that still have equivalent provisions in their statute books, to critically consider the lawfulness and legality of provisions that similarly criminalise consensual sexual relations." ICJ Commissioner Justice Ajit Prakash Shah from India, former Delhi High Court Judge who first decriminalised homosexuality in 2009*

## 2.5 Guatemala: successful litigation reinforces the legitimacy of rule of law and provides access to justice for indigenous peoples

Since 2013 the ICJ has been supporting strategic litigation in Guatemala challenging Constitutional Decree 145-2013 whereby then-President Otto Pérez Molina argued that the extension of the electricity grid was a national emergency that warranted land appropriation without compensation.

The ICJ brought together 27 different indigenous communities, calling for the Constitutional Decree to be declared void and to prompt the Guatemalan government to respect the right of consultation and the right to land property by indigenous communities.



In 2018, the ICJ held a series of meetings with the affected communities to keep them informed of progress and to consider, given the long delays in the Constitutional Court, preparing individual cases against the Colombian company that had been awarded the grid expansion work.

On 15 January 2019, the Constitutional Court finally issued a ruling, declaring that the Government Accord was unconstitutional and that it should be repealed with immediate effect. This decision constitutes a major victory giving effect to the rights of indigenous peoples and allowing them to seek redress. The ruling also reaffirms the competence of the legislative and protects the Constitution.

### 3 Accountability for Human Rights Violations and Abuses

Through a mixture of advocacy, strategic litigation and trial observation, the ICJ has directly or indirectly contributed to hold perpetrators of human rights violations accountable in specific cases, thus contributing to foster accountability for human rights violations and abuses and ensuring redress to victims.

Accountability is more than an abstract principle; it is necessary, among other reasons, to ensure that injustices are not repeated

*“Victims of (gross) human rights violations not only have the right to the truth and the right to redress. The right to the truth is closely linked to the procedural obligation of the State to conduct a prompt, independent and effective investigation when a gross human rights violation has occurred, and bring the perpetrators to justice. Thus, victims also have the right that those responsible shall be held accountable. This is ‘hard’ law. See for instance the case-law of the European Court of Human Rights in Article 2 ECHR, cases concerning the right to life.” ICJ Commissioner Justice Egbert Myjer from the Netherlands, former Judge of the European Court of Human Rights*

In addition to the launch of its Global Accountability project, the ICJ has empowered victims to demand truth, justice and reparation – which are integral to and reinforce individual and State accountability for human rights violations and abuses – primarily through working with local CSOs, victims’ groups and victims’ legal representatives.

#### 3.1 Nepal: Translating courtroom successes and legal reform into accountability and effective redress for conflict victims

Maina Sunuwar was a 15-year-old girl subjected to enforced disappearance, torture and unlawful killing after a covert military operation during Nepal’s armed conflict. In a case supported by the ICJ brought to the Kavre District Court three retired army officers were sentenced to life imprisonment in 2017. This case helped establish that

conflict-era cases could be dealt with by the regular criminal justice system. However, the Nepal Army filed a writ petition in the Supreme Court challenging such decision on several grounds.

In November 2018, on the 12th Anniversary of the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement that ended a decade-long armed conflict in Nepal, the ICJ published a *Legal briefing on the Nepal Army's Petition to overturn conviction for Maina Sunuwar Killings*, which was then submitted to the Supreme Court. The briefing set out Nepal's obligations under international law and the Nepal Supreme Court's jurisprudence to investigate and prosecute perpetrators of human rights violations as well as the impropriety of jurisdiction by a military court-martial in cases of serious human rights violations committed against civilians.

The case is still pending before the Supreme Court; a positive decision reinforcing the District Court's verdict would be significant in clarifying court jurisdiction regarding human rights violations against civilians by state security forces.

*"The strength of the national rule of law system shall be judged by its capacity to engender trust and hope in the system amongst the victims and creating abilities for them to pursue truth, justice and reparations, without giving leverage to the perpetrators, however popular, influential and high profile they may be, to escape from criminal accountability for human rights offenses, through evasive attempts, be it in the form of tactical delays, obstructions in the processes or institutional dilemmas. The Nepali legal system must be able to prove its strengths for the better realizations of human rights in line with the recognized principles of justice and international human rights norms."*  
ICJ Commissioner Justice Kalyan Shrestha, former Chief Justice of the Nepalese Supreme Court

### 3.2 Myanmar: Demanding justice for the Rohingya

The plight of the Rohingya has been of grave concern for some time. In 2018 a UN fact-finding mission released its full account of massive human rights violations by Myanmar's military in the Rakhine, Kachin and Shan States of Myanmar including possibly genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes. The UN experts called for a full investigation to ensure perpetrators do not go unpunished. The ICJ contributed to addressing the crisis in Myanmar in two significant ways.

First, in June 2018 the ICJ made submissions to the International Criminal Court (ICC) setting out an international human rights law analysis as to why the Court had jurisdiction and competence to investigate and consider the allegations of forced deportation of Rohingyas as a crime against humanity in Myanmar. The Office of the Prosecutor directly quoted the ICJ's analysis and in September 2018, an ICC Pre-Trial Chamber ruled that the Court could exercise jurisdiction over the alleged deportation. While this jurisdictional ruling from the ICC does not directly address the crimes allegedly committed against the Rohingya or other minorities, it nonetheless constitutes an important step towards accountability.

Second, in September 2018, following sustained ICJ advocacy including legal briefings and oral statements at the UN, the UN Human Rights Council took the decision to establish an 'independent mechanism' to collect evidence of crimes in Myanmar. This marks another important step towards accountability as it opens up the possibility for independent, evidence-based investigations into allegations of serious human rights violations in Myanmar. In addition, the ICJ's outputs have contributed to foster a climate of accountability. Translated into Burmese, the ICJ's analysis of the merits and shortcomings of the mechanism established by the Human Rights Council is the first and likely only expert explanation of the mechanism made available in Burmese to HRDs and CSOs in Myanmar.

### 3.3 Tunisia: Enabling accountability for past human rights violations

In 2018, the ICJ focussed on enhancing the capacity of Tunisia's Specialized Criminal Chamber (SCC) judges to ensure accountability for serious human rights violations and to prompt Tunisian decision-makers to punish past abuses in order to create the conditions for a peaceful and democratic society.

In May 2018, the ICJ released a report entitled *"Achieving Justice for Gross Human Rights Violations in Tunisia"* analysing obstacles to accountability in Tunisia. The report was launched during a conference on the role of Tunisia's SCC in addressing the legacy of gross human rights violations and it also formed the basis of a capacity building seminar for SCC judges to build their capacity to apply international law and standards with a view to combat impunity.

*"Every judge must do his best to know, understand and apply the law but in a humanistic way by respecting human rights and all fundamental rights. For the judiciary to be independent there must be a true political will that is ready to change many laws."*  
ICJ Commissioner Justice Kalthoum Kennou from Tunisia, and former President of the Tunisian Judges' Association

In 2018 the ICJ also monitored the transfer of cases by Tunisia's Truth and Dignity Commission (IVD) to the SCC, observed the first ever SCC hearing and, when the Parliament failed to renew the IVD's mandate in May 2018, expressed its concern at the backwards steps in the transitional justice process.

As the political climate surrounding the work of the IVD and the SCC became increasingly hostile, the ICJ joined other Tunisian and international NGOs in building a coalition of like-minded civil society actors committed to promoting a credible transitional justice process in line with international standards in Tunisia. Together with the other members of the coalition, the ICJ expressed its deep concern at the attacks against the transitional justice process in November 2018 and at the absence of State authorities at the IVD closing conference in December 2018.





### 3.4 Tajikistan: Using international attention to address impunity

The national context in Tajikistan has not been conducive to legislative reform to address impunity and so the ICJ has sought to maintain focus on and direct influence towards this issue via international rights mechanisms.

In March 2018 the ICJ submitted a report to the UN Committee against Torture (CAT) to make recommendations in several key areas, building on its 2017 publication *Achieving Justice for Gross Human Rights Violations in Tajikistan*. The submission put forward 17 recommendations that included the obligation to investigate allegations of torture and ill-treatment, the right of victims to effective remedies and reparation, and the use of amnesties and pardons for torture.

In its Concluding Observations on Tajikistan, the CAT adopted recommendations in six of the eight areas of concern raised by the ICJ. These recommendations and decisions from the CAT oblige States to take progressive steps towards complying with and/or implementing applicable international human rights law and standards within defined periods of time. They also provide further advocacy tools for civil society, lawyers and independent experts as the basis to push for law and policy reform.

## 4 The Rule of Law and International Standards and Instruments

*"The rule of law needs to be materialized by the adherence to and implementation of the international instruments by the States. UN human rights mechanisms including the human rights treaty bodies play an important role, in particular, through the work of regularly monitoring the compliance of the States with the international human rights instruments." ICJ Commissioner Mikiko Otani from Japan, Member of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child*

The ICJ has always recognized that international human rights must be implemented in the context of ever-changing international realities; sometimes these changes can stall, prohibit and even regress rights protections. In today's current climate of generalized attacks on the rule of law, what is at stake is the continued relevance of the international human rights architecture established following the Second World War.

The ICJ stands shoulder to shoulder with other stakeholders including justice actors, HRDs and CSOs to not only protect existing international human rights standards and mechanisms but to call for reforms when.



### 4.1 Entrenching women's and girls' right to life and right to abortion in international human rights standards

In October 2014, the UN Human Rights Committee decided to start elaborating a new General Comment on article 6, enshrining the right to life, of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). Since 2015 the ICJ engaged in intense, coordinated advocacy to ensure the General Comment elaborated on States' obligations to realize women's and girls' right to life on the basis of equality and non-discrimination, taking into account the risks to their lives they face related to reproduction and gender. The ICJ's views that the right to life does not extend prenatally faced strong opposition from anti-abortion groups.

On 30 October 2018, the UN Human Rights Committee officially adopted its General Comment no. 36 on article 6. The text, which constitutes a strong reaffirmation of abortion as pivotal in ensuring the right to life of women and girls, not only incorporated all the points that the ICJ advocated for, but went beyond them in several key respects and marks a great step towards preventing maternal mortality and morbidity.

This new general comment can now be used to monitor and assess States parties adherence to the ICCPR, domestic courts can refer to it in their interpretations of states' international obligations, and other stakeholders can use it as an advocacy tool in their endeavours to secure more broadly effective realization of women's and girls' rights.

### 4.2 Contribution to the UN Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration

Throughout 2018, the ICJ's *Principles on the role of judges and lawyers in relation to refugees and migrants*, published in May 2017, have continued to inform the international debate on ways to better secure human rights in the context of large movements of refugees and migrants.

Since their publication, the ICJ *Principles* have been widely disseminated and referenced by authoritative institutions and civil society groups and in 2017, Canada and Mexico referenced the *Principles* and took up a number of the issues they raised in the UN Global Compact for Migration. In July 2018, UN Member States finalized the text for the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, which was adopted in December at the Intergovernmental Conference in Marrakech, Morocco. Various paragraphs in the final text reflect the issues addressed by the ICJ's *Principles*, including refugees' and migrants' entitlement to the same universal human rights and fundamental freedoms as others; the cross-cutting guiding principles of rule of law and due process as well as international human rights law; migrants' access to public or affordable independent legal assistance and representation; the conduct of intra- and cross-regional specialized human rights trainings for first line responders and government officials including justice sector actors; detention of migrants as a last resort; migrants' exercise of their human rights through safe access to basic services; and on safe return, effective



remedies and the prohibition of expulsion in cases provided for in international human rights law.

#### **4.3 Continuing advocacy for an effective treaty on business and human rights**

The ICJ has continued its long-term work to address one of the most significant protection gaps in rights protection, which is in relation to business and human rights. Throughout 2018 international work has continued to progress towards the adoption of an international legally binding instrument, a treaty, to regulate the activities of transnational corporations and other business enterprises.

The ICJ has consistently advocated for an effective treaty on business and human rights, particularly in the context of the third and fourth sessions of the open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group dedicated to the elaboration of such a treaty.

Encouragingly, in 2018 elements of the issues raised by the ICJ were included in the first draft of the treaty. This early result came after sustained advocacy by the ICJ through engaging in informal consultations convened by the chair of the Intergovernmental working group, conducting multi-stakeholder dialogues on the scope and content of such a treaty in October 2018, delivering statements at the UN, and providing expert legal and policy advice to both governmental and non-governmental actors.

#### **4.4 Advocating for judicial independence and integrity regionally and internationally**

The ICJ's commitment to judicial independence and integrity as essential to upholding a dynamic rule of law has seen advocacy for a strengthening of regional and international standards, including engagement in Africa and globally.

Since 2017 the ICJ has been advocating for the establishment of a Special Rapporteur on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers at the African Commission on Human and People's Rights (ACHPR). In April 2018, the ICJ hosted a high-level advocacy event with Commissioners of the African Commission to further push for the adoption of this. It remains too early to know the effect of these advocacy efforts but encouragingly, one of the ACHPR Commissioners offered to drive the process of investigating this possibility within the Commission.

At the global level, the ICJ actively participated in the launch event of the Global Judicial Integrity Network of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), which took place in April in Vienna, Austria. It was one of the largest-ever gatherings of Chief Justices and other senior judges, together with other experts and stakeholders. The ICJ intervened during the drafting and adoption of a Global Declaration on Judicial Integrity, successfully proposing language that was subsequently incorporated in the final text, countering and ultimately preventing political efforts to weaken the text.

#### **4.5 Protecting the European Convention on Human Rights**

The ICJ has been engaged in the process of reform of the European Convention on Human Rights system for several years and has focussed on protecting and strengthening this system through long-term advocacy and co-operation with other NGOs, the Council of Europe (CoE) and Member State representatives.

In 2018, a new phase of the reform process threatened the independence and integrity of the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) and undermined the universality of rights protection in Europe, with the 'Copenhagen Declaration' proposed by the Danish Presidency of the CoE.

The ICJ led advocacy efforts to counter these troubling proposals and as a result of pressure by both civil society and some Council of Europe Member States, the draft Declaration was significantly amended before its adoption at the Copenhagen Conference. Notably, some of the most problematic language that would have compromised the independence of the ECtHR and its ability to intervene in cases related to asylum and migration was removed from the final text.

Although a section on "dialogue" regarding the Convention system was retained in the adopted Declaration, which remains a cause of concern, the final text omits any suggestion of direct dialogue between the ECtHR and national governments of Member States which would have exposed the court to unacceptable political pressure.

The final declaration also gives greater prominence to questions of national implementation and the execution of judgements, as recommended by the ICJ and other NGOs.

*"The fact that the most contentious proposals were not finally adopted was in no small measure due to the work of NGOs, including the ICJ, in providing reasoned opposition to the proposals and raising concerns about the risks posed by them to the integrity and universality of the Convention system."*

*The continued engagement of the ICJ, in cooperation with other NGOs, to protect and strengthen the Convention system and to ensure the independence of the Strasbourg Court has never been more important. It is only with such support that the Convention will remain the 'living instrument' for the international protection of fundamental rights that it was always intended to be." ICJ Commissioner and Executive Committee member Sir Nicolas Bratza from the UK, and former President of the European Court of Human Rights*

## 5 Domestic Implementation and Compliance with Global and Regional Standards

Existing global and regional rights standards are not adequately or appropriately implemented and enforced in many countries around the world so the ICJ works with national partners to identify and address gaps in domestic implementation of these standards.

In 2018 the ICJ helped bridge some of these implementation gaps through a combination of working methods including capacity building workshops and mentoring programmes, advocacy techniques and strategic litigation.

*“Working on human rights implementation and compliance means bringing down to earth the contents of international law and standards. It requires proposing national legislation and drafting decrees, suggesting policies and litigating for best practices, all of it in the pursuit of the recognition of human rights principles at the local level. But it goes beyond working on those rights that have already earned recognition; it entails fighting for “new” rights that emerge as a result of social struggles, and remaining vigilant so that human rights gains are not trampled. Implementing and ensuring compliance with human rights law involves both legal work and activism; it is what makes all rights real and meaningful for all, without discrimination; it is the fundamental purpose of human rights and rule of law work.”*  
ICJ Commissioner Wilder Taylor, Director of the National Institution of Human Rights and Ombudsman's Office in Uruguay

Work on domestic compliance in 2018 took place with participants from a number of countries including Cambodia, Egypt, Eswatini, Lebanon, Lithuania, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Romania, South Africa, Thailand, Tunisia and Uzbekistan.

### 5.1 South East Asia and South Asia: Progress on the domestic implementation of international standards for the investigation of potentially unlawful deaths

The ICJ was actively engaged in revising the Minnesota Protocol on the Investigation of Potentially Unlawful Death, which contains a detailed set of guidelines on crime scene investigation, interviews, the excavation of graves, autopsy, and the analysis of skeletal remains, reflecting technological advances. The revised Minnesota Protocol was launched in 2016 and since then the ICJ has been working with other stakeholders to promote the Protocol as a means of ensuring the implementation of international standards providing for the investigation of potentially unlawful death.

In 2018 the ICJ started rolling out the first regional training programmes for criminal investigators, forensic doctors, forensic scientists, prosecutors, police trainers, senior judges and public officials from Cambodia, Myanmar, Nepal and Thailand, as well as follow-up national workshops for lawyers and for public prosecutors in Nepal.



Participants reported that sharing experiences and challenges they faced in their work helped them develop ideas of how they could implement the relevant international standards, best practices and investigative techniques in their respective countries. As a result of these training programmes, there has been an increased demand from participants and the agencies they represent in Southeast and South Asia for translated copies of the Minnesota Protocol, for follow-up training programmes, and for technical advice in the development of training modules on the implementation of these international standards. There are also indications that some countries, such as Thailand, are taking steps to integrate the training modules under development into regular training curriculum for the police, lawyers and judges.

#### **5.2 Building the capacity of women human rights defenders to use UN human rights mechanisms to uphold the rights of women and girls**

In 2018 the ICJ mentored women human rights defenders from Asia and the Pacific, Central Asia and MENA to increase their understanding of how relevant regional and UN human rights mechanisms can be used to promote reform in their countries. The mentorship programme took place during periods in June, July and September that coincided with sessions of the UN Human Rights Council and of the Committee for the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW Committee) taking place in Geneva.

The HRDs gained theoretical knowledge of and practical exposure to the operation of international rights mechanisms by participating in seminars, observing the Human Rights Council and CEDAW Committee in action, meeting with Special Rapporteurs and other mandate-holders, and engaging with representatives of Members states, CSOs and other stakeholders. The mentorship programme was an opportunity for these HRDs to augment their advocacy towards implementing international human rights law and standards providing for women's human rights in their respective national context.

One of the HRDs from Tunisia explained: "It was very important for me to participate in the training as it is an opportunity to see the actual functioning of the UN Bodies, in particular the CEDAW Committee, because CEDAW was a very important factor for the evolution of legislation in Tunisia. I learned a lot of things, especially on the procedures of appeal and also on the functioning of the various committees and commissions. Certainly there are several mechanisms which can be used to help women's rights in Tunisia. In particular, I can speak about the role of civil society for the Universal Periodic Review but also civil society has the role that it can help individuals to make direct recourse". The ICJ later learned that this participant was involved in the launch of the first legal clinic in Tunisia dedicated to gender-based violence.

#### **5.3 Pakistan: Increased pressure to stop serious fair trial violations in the operation of military courts**

The ICJ has been monitoring the operation of military courts in Pakistan since a constitutional amendment in January 2015 extended

their jurisdiction over civilians. The ICJ has provided legal analysis on the incompatibility of military court proceedings with national and international fair trial standards, including through public statements, oral statements before the UN, and Opinion Editorials.

In 2017, the ICJ's analysis of how military courts' jurisdiction over civilians and the procedures of these courts violate Pakistan's treaty obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and Convention against Torture (CAT) had been reflected in the concluding observations of the two related UN committees.

Throughout 2018, the ICJ has continued to document serious fair trial violations in the operation of military courts, including: denial of the right to counsel of choice; failure to disclose the charges against the accused; denial of a public hearing; failure to give convicts copies of a judgment with evidence and reasons for the verdict; and a very high number of convictions based on "confessions" without adequate safeguards against torture and ill treatment.

The previous amendment enabling military jurisdiction over civilians lapsed in March 2019. The Government considered renewing the mandate of military courts once again, but for the first time opposition parties resisted such attempts, referring to the ICJ's analysis to argue that these courts raise serious human rights concerns and are ineffective against countering terrorism.

#### **5.4 Romania and Lithuania: Contribution to landmark European Court of Human Rights ruling condemning complicity in CIA secret detention programme**

The ICJ has successfully engaged in legal interventions in cases of non-compliance with international human rights standards, shedding light on the obligation of States to respect, protect and fulfil these rights, particularly for the most marginalized or at-risk categories of the population.

The ICJ and Amnesty International jointly intervened in the *Al Nashiri v Romania and Abu Zubaydah v Lithuania* cases before the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR). Both *Al Nashiri* and *Abu Zubaydah* were subjected to enforced disappearance and torture while held in secret CIA sites in Romania and Lithuania, for various allegations of terrorism-related offences, before being transferred to the US prison at Guantánamo Bay.

On 31 May 2018, the ECtHR made landmark rulings finding that Romanian and Lithuanian complicity in the CIA's secret detention programme had violated the men's human rights. These judgments, which build on earlier decisions of the European Court that were also informed by ICJ and Amnesty International interventions, are a milestone in publicly exposing European governments' violations of their international human rights obligations and holding governments accountable for their involvement in illegal CIA activities in the aftermath of the 11 September 2001 attacks.

## The ICJ-European Institutions Office

The ICJ-European Institutions (ICJ-EI) office 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 2018, the ICJ-EI continued its advocacy work with the institutions of the European Union, focusing on issues of rule of law, migration and counterterrorism.

Amongst other activities, the ICJ-EI raised awareness and drew the attention of the EU institutions to the serious threats to the rule of law in Hungary and Poland, analysing developments there in light of international law and standards, and called for active intervention by the EU in defending the Rule of Law. The ICJ-EI further called for the compliance by Poland with the rulings of the Court of Justice of the EU.

At the Council of Europe level, the ICJ-EI promoted the drafting of a European Convention on the profession of lawyers, presented observations on the draft Copenhagen Declaration on the Future of the European Court of Human Rights and on the use of classified documents before the European Court of Human Rights. The ICJ-EI contributed to a series of third-party interventions before the European Court, in cooperation with the ICJ. The ICJ-EI has presented two collective complaints before the European Committee of Social Rights on access to justice in juvenile criminal proceedings and on the conditions of reception of migrants.

The ICJ, in co-operation with ICJ-EI, also continued its work as a member of the Frontex Consultative Forum on Human Rights, with a particular focus on accountability of Frontex for violations of human rights.

In Bulgaria, Germany, Greece, Italy, Malta and Spain, the ICJ-EI held a series of national training seminars as well as a regional strategic litigation retreat for lawyers on the rights of children in migration. The project also developed training modules on the rights of children in migration, and provided advice and support to lawyers in strategic litigation. In December 2018 a new project was initiated that will further build on this migration rights work in the focus countries the Czech Republic, Greece, Ireland and Italy.

The ICJ-EI also contributed to a project on the rights of persons in need of international protection, in co-operation with the Greek Council for Refugees. In Turkey, the ICJ-EI co-operated with the ICJ on the training of Turkish lawyers on issues of human rights in migration and of access to justice and the Rule of Law. In Central Asia, it contributed to the implementation of human rights training courses and exchange programmes for judges and lawyers.

In September the ICJ-EI initiated a new project focussed on criminal justice in countering terrorism in accordance with the rule of law and human rights obligations. The project will increase access to and awareness of comparative analysis and best practices for lawyers and judges working in this field from Belgium, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, and Spain.

In 2018, the ICJ-EI also implemented a number of projects in regions outside Europe, including a project on the independence of the judiciary in Lebanon, in the MENA region.

In Africa, ICJ-EI undertook a project to strengthen civil society capacity for legal advocacy on socio-economic rights in South Africa, under which ICJ-EI submitted a parallel report to the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. The project also provides training for CSOs, lawyers and magistrates on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

The ICJ-EI also undertook in 2018 a project to strengthen civil society engagement with the African Union human rights mechanisms, including the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights. Under this project the ICJ-EI produced a handbook for participation at these mechanisms and supported civil society's use of the mechanisms for advocacy by providing training on African human rights standards and mechanisms, supporting litigation and making it possible for activists who have not previously made use of these mechanisms to attend the open sessions of the African Commission, and the NGO Forum preceding it, in order to advocate for greater domestic compliance with regional human rights standards.

## Media and Communications

In 2018 the ICJ continued to significantly improve its ability to work with the media and reach wider audiences. The proportion of the press releases issued by the ICJ that received media coverage has steadily improved: over 90 per cent of them received media coverage, the best result since the creation of Media & Communications Unit in 2011. Coverage by international media has slightly decreased compared to the previous year, probably because the ICJ issued fewer press releases in 2018, but it has remained higher than all the other years since 2012.

The ICJ has also continued to work towards the diversification of its communication and outreach means. The level of engagements of followers on ICJ's Twitter account and Facebook page is remarkably high, which indicates a good level of interaction between the ICJ's content and its audience.

To widen access to its analysis, the ICJ has also continued, where resources allowed, to publish reports and other materials in different languages. The training materials on access to justice for migrant children in Europe were published in six different languages: Bulgarian, English, Italian, German, Greek and Spanish. They were the most downloaded publications in 2018.

The French and Russian sections of the website were completed and launched in April and August respectively.

The whole website has been refreshed with a new design, compatible with mobile devices, which was launched in September.

When it comes to multimedia work, the ICJ has continued to prioritize, within budgetary constraints, the production of quality videos, as well as to live stream public events to ensure wider access to these meetings. All videos of live-streamed events have been stored on Facebook to allow those who could not watch the live event to later access its content. In total, 12 videos were produced and published in 2018.

For the 60th anniversary of the ICJ's move to Geneva, the organization launched its first-ever advertisement and visibility campaign complementing and supporting the ICJ's private fundraising initiatives (particularly the launch of the "60th Anniversary Appeal" to all lawyers in the Republic and canton of Geneva to support the ICJ). From 26 September to 9 October, five vehicles of the Geneva public transportation network displayed the ICJ's slogan "Global Advocates for Justice and Human Rights – 60 years in Geneva", in English and in French. Also, a 10-second clip with the slogan in both languages was played in a loop on the 940 screens inside all Geneva public transportation vehicles.

## A year of continued progress

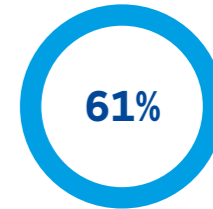
### Increased Media Coverage



Press releases issued in 2018

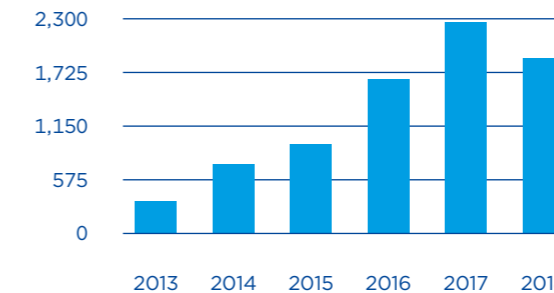


Press releases covered (+3% compared to 2017)

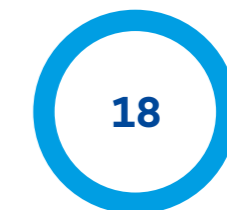


Hits in international media

### International media hits



### Sustained video productions



ICJ-produced videos

### Refreshed ICJ website



Website in four languages: EN, SP, FR and RU

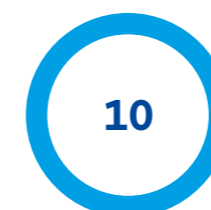


105,963 visitors, amongst whom 54.5% of women

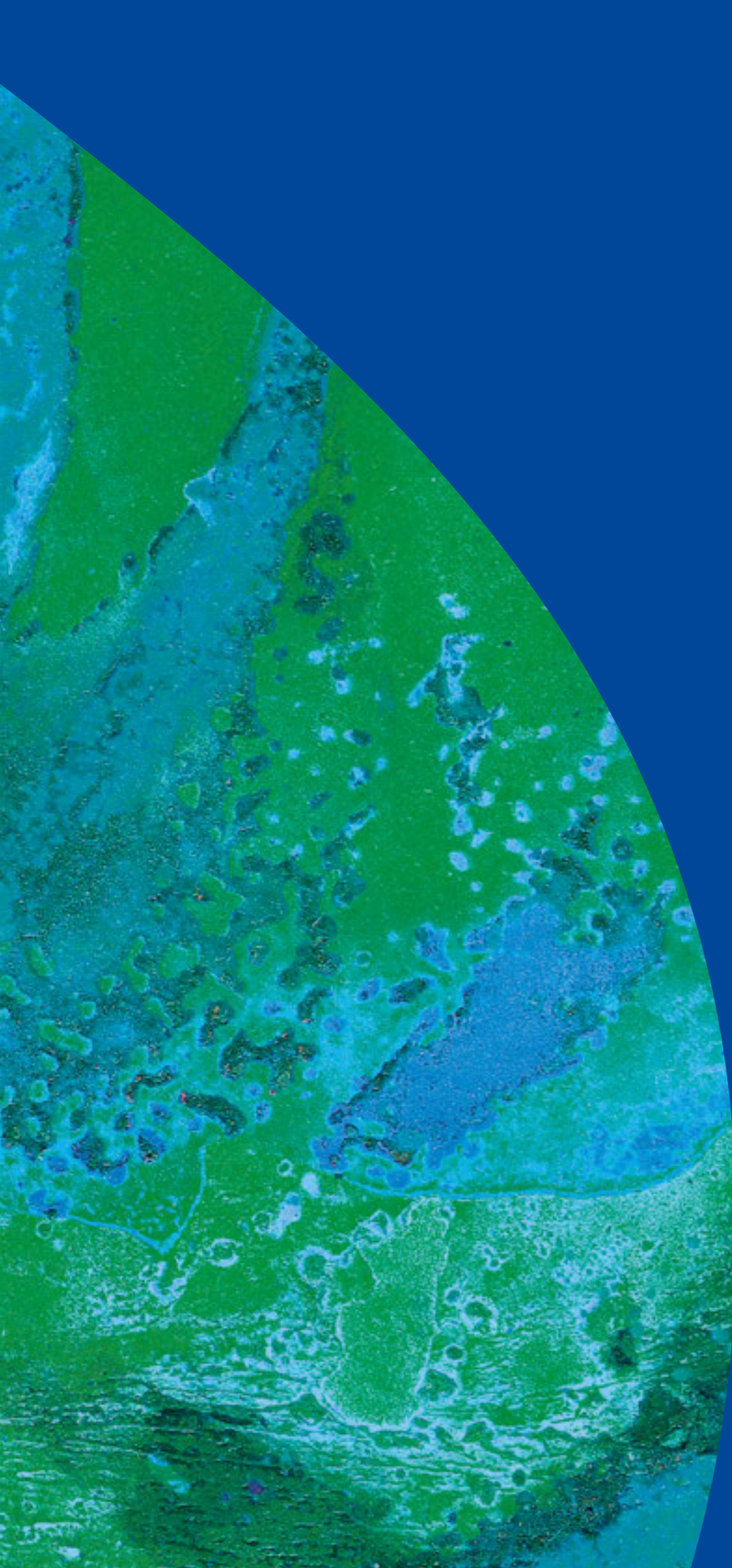


More than 60% of visitors aged below 34 years old

### Publications



Annual Report  
Update of Practitioners' Guide n°2  
Training modules on migrant children's rights  
+ 7 other reports (Global, America & Europe)



## Financial Report

The ICJ's financial statements for the year ending 31 December 2018 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.

The consolidated financial statements comprise the ICJ International Secretariat, based in Switzerland with six regional and country offices (in Asia, Africa, Europe and Latin America), and its sister organization, the ICJ EI (ICJ European Institutions), based in Belgium.

Activities implemented during 2018 resulted in an important increase (23%) in expenditure, with a total operating expenditure of more than 11.2 million Swiss Francs. Of that total operating expenditure, 88% was spent on project activities and 12% was spent on global programme activities, including governance, quality control, project and change management and support services.

The majority of contributions are paid in Euros or other foreign currencies so the ICJ has continued to work towards mitigating exchange risks by implementing a hedging policy from 2019. In 2018, ICJ did not suffer any major currency loss. Income has increased by 2% with unrestricted funding representing 13% of total income compared to only 8% in 2017 with an increase of 54% from CHF 1.2 million to CHF 1.9 million. This helped compensate the increase of expenditures. Although the ICJ's financial health has improved allowing the ICJ to rebuild general reserves from CHF 627 to close to CHF 163'000, the situation still requires close attention and dedication to improved fundraising and resource utilization.

Projections for 2019 are reasonably good, with most of the budget already secured from a range of multi-year projects and programme partnerships, including ongoing and new initiatives with existing and new partners. Meanwhile, the ICJ continues to align financial and risk management policies and procedures to provide for sustainable growth of activities. Programme management and reporting continue in line with the 2016-2020 Strategic Plan and the results-based programme management framework and we look forward to continuing to work with partners to achieve the mission of the ICJ.

The consolidated Balance Sheet and Statement of Income for the Year Ended 31 December 2018 are provided here and a copy of the full audited financial statements may be obtained from the ICJ office in Geneva.

The ICJ would like to thank our donors, Commissioners, partners and staff who have contributed – both financially and through their 'time and talents' – to the work achieved in 2018.

### Consolidated balance sheet as at 31 December 2018

(with comparative figures for 2017, in Swiss Francs)

Assets	2018	2017
<b>Current assets</b>		
Cash & cash equivalents	5,581,822	3,245,612
Grants receivable (short term)	5,581,969	5,598,548
Provision on grants	-83,206	-
Other current assets	517,250	582,564
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>11,597,835</b>	<b>9,426,724</b>
<b>Non-current assets</b>		
Grants receivable (long term)	5,330,248	2,859,527
Tangible and intangible assets	4,155	-
Financial assets	67,115	70,236
<b>Total non-current assets</b>	<b>5,401,518</b>	<b>2,929,763</b>
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>16,999,353</b>	<b>12,356,487</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
<b>Short-term liabilities</b>		
Operating liabilities	792,699	745,266
Accrued liabilities	410,311	282,365
Contributions received in advance	1,242,689	-
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<b>2,445,699</b>	<b>1,027,631</b>
<b>Restricted funds</b>		
Funds restricted to projects	14,390,197	11,328,229
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	<b>14,390,197</b>	<b>11,328,229</b>
<b>Capital of the organization</b>		
General reserves	907	66,466
Income / (loss) for the year	163,157	-65,559
Foreign currency translation reserve	-608	-280
<b>Total capital of the organization</b>	<b>163,456</b>	<b>627</b>
<b>Total liabilities &amp; funds</b>	<b>16,999,353</b>	<b>12,356,487</b>

### Consolidated statement of income for the year 2018

(with comparative figures for 2017, in Swiss Francs)

Income	2018	2017
Contributions for projects	12,782,529	13,136,698
Contributions for the Commission	1,918,204	1,246,530
<b>Total income</b>	<b>14,700,733</b>	<b>14,383,228</b>
<b>Operating expenditure</b>		
Staff	4,949,476	4,475,109
Meeting & travel costs	3,238,089	2,068,102
Consultancy fees	2,194,377	1,737,864
Publication and promotion costs	63,316	44,171
Communication costs	69,507	76,653
Office premises	661,513	642,361
Other administrative expenditures	118,507	134,175
<b>Total operating expenditure</b>	<b>11,294,785</b>	<b>9,178,435</b>
<b>Operating result</b>	<b>3,405,948</b>	<b>5,204,793</b>
Non-operating result, net	16,018	46,141
Financial (expenses) / income, net	293,754	243,646
Variation of the provision of loss on receivables	-84,321	-
Variation of the provision on finished projects	-167,139	-
<b>Intermediate result before change in funds</b>	<b>3,464,260</b>	<b>5,494,580</b>
Attribution to restricted funds	-12,782,529	-13,136,698
Use of restricted funds	9,481,426	7,576,559
<b>Change in restricted funds</b>	<b>-3,301,103</b>	<b>-5,560,139</b>
<b>Result for the financial year</b>	<b>163,157</b>	<b>-65,559</b>





## List of Main Publications

### **Achieving Justice for Gross Human Rights Violations in Myanmar**

The ICJ's report finds that gross human rights violations in Myanmar rarely go punished, particularly in conflict areas, and called for the government to take action to counteract decades of military impunity.

### **Achieving Justice for Gross Human Rights Violations in Swaziland**

The ICJ's report found that discriminatory practices based on customary laws and traditional beliefs undermined equality between men and women and contributed to an environment in which sexual and gender based violence was at crisis point.

### **Achieving Justice for Gross Human Rights Violations in Tunisia**

The ICJ's report set out that the frustration and sense of injustice experienced by victims undermined Tunisia's democratic transition.

### **El juzgamiento de civiles por tribunales militares en Venezuela**

This report in Spanish on "The trial of civilians by military courts in Venezuela" analysed the constitutional and legal framework of Venezuela's military justice system including its structure, integration and scope of jurisdiction.

### **Fuero military y Derecho internacional: Los civiles ante los tribunales militares: Volumen II**

This report in Spanish on "Military jurisdiction and international law: the civilians before military courts" analysed this issue in light of the principles of the rule of law and international standards on the administration of justice and the right to a fair trial.

### **Justice Suspended: Access to Justice and the State of Emergency in Turkey**

The ICJ's report outlined how measures undertaken following a state of emergency had eroded the justice institutions and mechanisms in the country.

### **Practitioners' Guide No 2: The Right to a Remedy and Reparation for Gross Human Rights Violations (updated edition)**

This updated ICJ Practitioners' Guide outlined the international legal principles governing the right to a remedy and reparation for victims of gross human rights violations and abuses by compiling international jurisprudence on the issues of reparations.

### **Traditional and Customary Justice Systems**

The ICJ published a compilation of international human rights standards relevant to traditional and customary justice systems as part of an ongoing project detailing the relationship of these systems to indigenous justice, human rights, access to justice and the rule of law.

### **Training Materials on Access to Justice for Migrant Children (available in Bulgarian, English, German, Greek, Italian and Spanish)**

The ICJ published a set of training materials to help lawyers representing migrant children including information on the use of international redress mechanisms

## Acknowledgments

The ICJ would like to thank the following donors for their support in 2018

Anonymous donors  
Crettaz, Jean-Marie  
European Commission  
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Federal Republic of Germany, Embassy in Colombia  
Federal Republic of Germany, Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs  
Federal Republic of Germany, Permanent Mission to the United Nations and Other International Organizations  
Finland, Ministry for Foreign Affairs  
Fund for Global Human Rights  
Greek Council for Refugees  
International Bar Association, Human Rights Trust  
International Panel of Parliamentarians for Freedom of Religion or Belief  
Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, UNAIDS  
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Kingdom of the Netherlands, Permanent Representation to the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe  
Kingdom of Norway, Embassy in Mexico  
Kingdom of Norway, Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Kingdom of Sweden, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency  
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Oak Foundation  
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Open Society Foundations  
Pro Victimis Foundation  
Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law  
Republic of Ireland, Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Trade  
Runge, Riccarda  
Swiss Confederation, Embassy in Nepal  
Swiss Confederation, Republic and Canton of Geneva  
Swiss Confederation, Ville de Genève  
Sigrid Rausing Trust  
Trocaire  
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, foreign and Commonwealth Office  
United Nations Development Programme, UNDP  
United States of America, Department of State—Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor  
UN Women  
World Health Organization, WHO

**In addition to its Commissioners, Honorary Members, Sections, Affiliates and secretariat staff the ICJ would like to thank the following for their contributions**

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Business and Human Rights Resource Centre; CAJAR; Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies; Cambodian Center for Human Rights; Cambodian Human Rights and Development Association (ADHOC); Cambodian League for the Promotion and Defense of Human Rights (LICADHO); Casablanca Bar Association, Morocco; Centre d'Action judiciaire pour les Droits Humains; Centre for International Law, Philippines; Centre for Law and Policy Research, Bangalore, India; Child Rights Connect; Chuang Mai University, Thailand; CIDSE; Civil Rights Defenders; Colombian Commission of Jurists; Columbia Law School Human rights Institute; Comité Campesino del Altiplano; Comité de Desarrollo Campesino; Commission for the Disappeared and Victims of Violence; Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines; Commonwealth Magistrates' and Judges Association; Community Rights Centre; Conflict Victim Committee – Bardiya; Conflict Victims Society for Justice; Corporate Responsibility Coalition Ltd; Costa Rica Association of Judges and Magistrates; 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Guatemalan Bar Association; Have Only Positive Expectation; Holland Association of Judges Rechters vor Rechters; Honduras Association of Judges for Democracy; Human Rights Commission of Pakistan; Human Rights in Practice Stichting; Human Rights Joint Platform; Human Rights Lawyers Association; Human Rights Watch; International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute; International Center for Transitional Justice; International lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and intersex association (ILGA); International Commission of Jurists – Kenya section; Immigrant Council of Ireland; Independent Lawyers Association Myanmar; Independent National Coordination on Transitional Justice; Instituto de Desarrollo y Paz de Colombia; Integrated Bar of the Philippines; International Commission against Impunity in Guatemala; International Federation for Human Rights; International Legal Assistance Consortium; International Service for Human Rights; Internet Law Reform Dialogue; Jeepyah Social Services; Jordanian Center for Legal Aid; Judges Community's of Saint Louis Petén; Judicial Service Commission Zimbabwe; Jueces y Juezas para la Democracia; Justice for Peace Foundation; Justice Project Pakistan; Justice without Frontiers; KOMPOLNAS (Police Commission of Indonesia); Lawyers Collective, New Delhi, India; Lawyers for Human Rights South Africa; Lawyers for Human Rights Swaziland; Lawyers Rights Watch Canada; Lebanese Centre for Human Rights; Legal Aid for South Africa; Legal Clinic for Refugees and Immigrants; Legal Policy Research Centre; Legal Research and Development Center, Faculty of Law, Chiangmai University, Thailand; Legal Resources Centre from Moldova; Legal Resources Centre, South Africa; Libyan Network for Legal Aid; Libyan Organization for Judges; Loka Ahlin; Mahkamah Agung Republik Indonesia (Supreme Court of Indonesia); Marievale Community Association; MEDEL (Germany); Minority Rights Group International; Mon Women's Organisation; Moroccan Judges' Club; Mültecilerle Dayanisma Dernegi; Mülteci Haklari Derneği; 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## Photographs

All other pictures: ICJ Archives  
Paintings by Roger Pfund

## Impressum

Composed of 60 eminent judges and lawyers from all regions of the world, the International Commission of Jurists promotes and protects human rights through the rule of law, by using its unique legal expertise to develop and strengthen national and international justice systems. Established in 1952 and active on the five continents, the ICJ aims to ensure the progressive development and effective implementation of international human rights and international humanitarian law, secure the realization of civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights, safeguard the separation of powers, and guarantee the independence of the judiciary and legal profession.

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March 2019 (for an updated list, please visit [www.icj.org/commission](http://www.icj.org/commission))

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