

International  
Commission  
of Jurists

Annual Report  
2019

# International Commission of Jurists Annual Report 2019

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Since 1952 the International Commission of Jurists has performed a unique and prominent role as a non-governmental organization (NGO) defending human rights and promoting the rule of law worldwide.

The ICJ's peerless reputation rests on these pillars:

- 60 Commissioners—eminent judges and lawyers—from all parts of the world and all legal systems—with unparalleled knowledge of the law and human rights;
- A unique network of 37 National Sections and over 40 Affiliated Organizations encompassing all regions of the world;
- Continuous involvement in the elaboration of new human rights instruments at the international, regional and domestic levels;
- Effective balance of diplomacy, constructive criticism, capacity building, and if necessary, 'naming and shaming';

- Unmatched direct access to national judiciaries, implementing international standards and improving legislation impacting millions;
- Guiding, training and protecting judges and lawyers worldwide to uphold the rule of law and implement international standards;
- Working for access to justice for victims of human rights violations, in particular, marginalized groups; and
- Following a strict result based management in performance of its projects

In recognition of its work over the years, the ICJ has been awarded some of the most prestigious international distinctions.

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

‘Reviewing the ICJ's work of 2019 we can see that many challenges have been faced and can predict that many more lie ahead for 2020 and beyond. Undeniably, the global pandemic and measures put in place to suppress the virus are having a seismic impact on rights protections in addition to the challenges already imposed by increasing authoritarianism and inequality. However, the rule of law and human rights have an important role to play in answering these challenges and are the only way forward that we can chose to safeguard human dignity.’

ICJ President  
Robert K. Goldman

## Message from the Secretary-General

Human rights work is tough at the best of times and while some years it feels like more progress is being made than lost, in other years the challenges faced seem almost overwhelming. In 2019 the ICJ has continued its work in defense of the rule of law and human rights but there is no doubt that this has been a challenging year and that more challenges, predictable and unpredictable, await us in the years ahead.

These threats are serious but over the past seven decades the ICJ has learned how to face dark times effectively. As the lawyers of the human rights movement, we have fostered global institutions and grassroots human rights defenders; drafted international treaties and used them to defend the rights of individuals; worked hand in hand with the most marginalized people and advocated for their rights face to face with the most powerful authorities.

In early 2019, the ICJ was able to bring together its Commissioners, Sections and Affiliates, and supporters in a full Congress that emphasized the organization's commitment to the core mandate issues that have directed our work for almost 70 years. These continued challenges include the fettered and ineffective judiciaries that cannot properly dispense justice (or worse, become tools of injustice), the continued marginalization of vulnerable groups, attacks on rights defenders and the inaccessibility of justice.

The Tunis Declaration that resulted from the 2019 Congress reaffirmed the ICJ's unyielding commitment to defend and advance the rule of law and human rights at a time when commitment to them by States and other powerful actors has been wavering. The Declaration also stressed that not only are human rights and the rule of law indispensable to the betterment of the human condition but must also be harnessed to address contemporary challenges identified by the Commission including those posed by resurgent authoritarian populism, unprecedented movements of people driven by increasing social disparity and climate change and intrusive new technologies. These challenges in 2019 all prefigured, and were aggravated by, the unprecedented and catastrophic impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on lives and livelihoods, the repercussions of which can be expected to impact human rights development for years to come.

Throughout 2019, the ICJ has continued working against discrimination that inhibits access to justice and accountability, particularly barriers to justice on the basis of gender in Asia and the Middle East and North Africa and discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity in Asia, Africa, and Europe. We have pushed for accountability for human rights violations in Latin America, Asia and the Middle East, and pushed to develop new global norms necessary to hold businesses responsible for their impact on human rights.

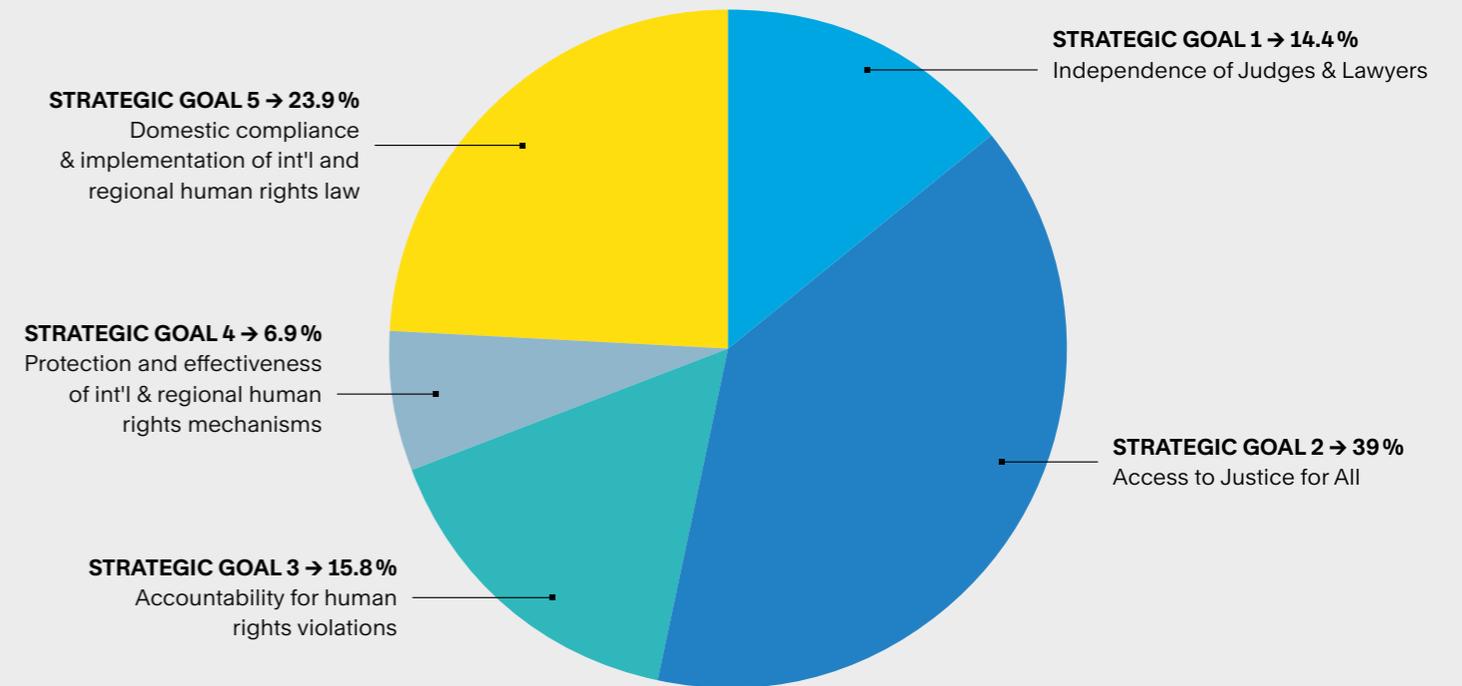
As existing and new threats to human rights and the rule of law evolve and emerge the ICJ knows that it needs to adapt to be able to meet these challenges. In 2019, we accelerated efforts to make sure the ICJ has sufficient resources and an infrastructure that is fit for purpose, which included investing in a number of new systems and processes to support staff, improve accountability and ensure we are capable of delivering the ICJ's expertise in a way that really benefits the lives of the people on whose behalf we work. The implementation of some of these changes, such as technological improvements that facilitated information and resource sharing, have immediately helped us continue our work despite the movement restrictions that are currently binding our Commissioners, staff and partners. However, some of the changes we have attempted have taken longer than we hoped to implement and we know we have more work to do to guarantee we are ready to address the challenges ahead.

It can be hard to remain optimistic when there is so much work to do but the ICJ has proven itself as an organization that can stand fast in the face of extraordinary pressures and bring to bear a weight, that far exceeds its resources, in bringing about real change that improves lives. With your support we will keep doing the good work that is showcased in this report and will continue working towards our vision of a rule of law that upholds the dignity and human rights of every person everywhere.

ICJ Secretary-General  
Saman Zia-Zarifi

# Year in Numbers

**EXPENDITURE PER STRATEGIC GOALS  
BREAKDOWN OF TOTAL FUNDS USED BY STRATEGIC GOALS  
FOR BOTH ICJ- AND ICJ-EI LED PROJECTS**



63 ACTIVE GRANTS FROM 32 DONORS

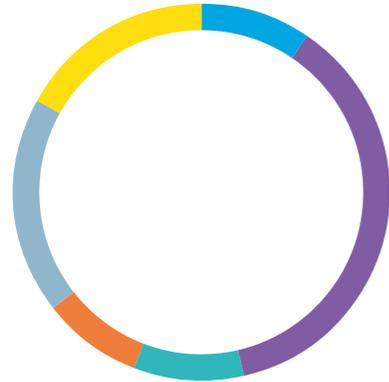
# 684

ACTIVITIES WERE UNDERTAKEN BY THE ICJ GLOBALLY, REGIONALLY & IN OVER 50 COUNTRIES ACROSS THE GLOBE (+4.5% COMPARED TO 2018)

# 9,300

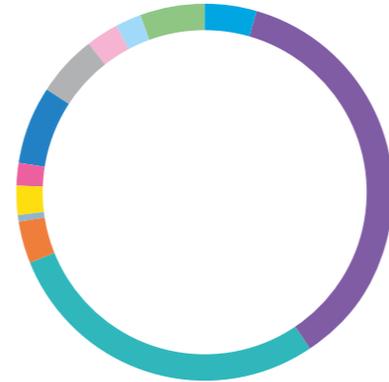
JUDGES, PROSECUTORS, LAWYERS, OTHER JUSTICE SECTOR ACTORS, HRDS, CIVIL SOCIETY ACTORS, PUBLIC OFFICIALS & OTHERS TOOK PART IN ICJ WORKSHOPS & MEETINGS (+64% COMPARED TO 2018)

### OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITIES BY PROGRAMME



- Africa 66
- Asia-Pacific 253
- Europe & CIS 63
- MENA 59
- Latin America 128
- LPO / Global 115

### DIVERSITY OF WORKING METHODS



- Advising 31
- Advocacy 248
- Capacity Building 194
- Fact Finding 24
- Human Rights Assessment 4
- Legal Submission 17
- Legal Fora 13
- Partnership 45
- Publications 37
- Strategic Litigation 19
- Trial Observation 15
- Other 37

### FINDINGS FROM SURVEYS OF PARTICIPANTS IN ICJ WORKSHOPS & MEETINGS IN 2019

# 520

PROJECTS FEEDING INTO THIS STRATEGIC GOAL FOR A TOTAL OF CHF 1,838,256

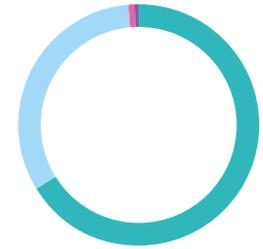
# 34%

OF RESPONDENTS SELF-IDENTIFIED AS WOMEN AND 3% AS OTHER

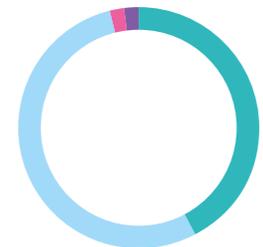
# 61%

HAD NEVER ENGAGED WITH THE ICJ BEFORE

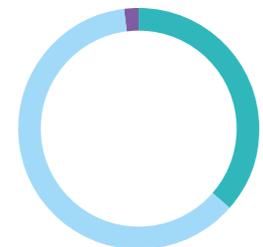
### FEEDBACK ON RELEVANCE, EFFECTIVENESS & POTENTIAL IMPACT



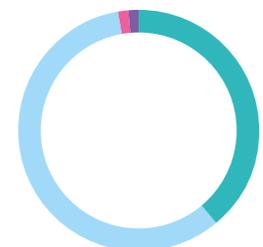
"The content of the workshop was relevant to my work"



"I was satisfied with the quality of the presentations and learning materials"



"The workshop has increased my knowledge / skills on the topics covered"



"What I have learned will impact my work"

- Strongly agree
- Agree / Partly Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree



**Reach of ICJ  
Interventions**  
by Focus Country

More than 50 countries  
across the World

○ ICJ Offices  
▲ ICJ carried out interventions in 2020

# Year in Review

**Publication of four training modules** on migration and asylum law for lawyers and CSOs in **Turkey**

**19<sup>th</sup> World Congress of the ICJ** and release of the **Tunis Declaration** on the Rule of Law  
→ See page 14



**Submission** to UN Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights on **LGBTQ persons' rights in India**

**Release of report** Gender-based Violence in Lebanon: Inadequate Framework, Ineffective Remedies

**Joint side-event 'Lawyers under threat in the OSCE region'** in Poland



**Judicial symposium** on combating sexual and gender-based violence in **Eswatini**

JANUARY    FEBRUARY    MARCH    AVRIL    MAY    JUNE    JULY    AUGUST    SEPTEMBER    OCTOBER    NOVEMBER    DECEMBER

**Launch of new project** on combating impunity for serious human rights violations in **Colombia, Guatemala and Peru**  
→ See page 30

**Workshop of judges** on "Ensuring accountability through the Specialized Criminal Chambers" in **Tunisia**

**Publication of commentary on the 2018 "zero draft" of treaty** on business and human rights

Launch of board based **anti-corruption awareness campaign in Zimbabwe**



**Workshop of lawyers and victims** on enforced disappearance and extrajudicial killings in **Colombia**

**Launch of report** Dictating the Internet: Curtailing Free Expression, Opinion and Information Online in **Southeast Asia**  
→ See page 27





## 18<sup>th</sup> ICJ World Congress in Tunis 23-24 March 2019

A significant development in 2019 was the convening of the 18<sup>th</sup> ICJ World Congress of the Commission and its sections and affiliates in Tunis, on 23-24 March 2019.

It was convened as part of the 60th anniversary celebration of the Declaration of Delhi, which sets out fundamental tenets of the rule of law and in the current global context warrants revisiting.

The Congress brought together over 100 judges and lawyers representing the ICJ's Commissioners, honorary members, sections and affiliates, to reflect on contemporary challenges to the rule of law. This resulted in the adoption of the Tunis Declaration on Reinforcing the Rule of Law.

This document powerfully reaffirmed the ICJ's dedication to defending and expanding the rule of law and human rights. It also highlighted the importance of addressing contemporary challenges such as climate change and the impact of new technology on human rights. The months following the meeting in Tunis have been dedicated to strengthening the ICJ's capability to implement the Tunis Declaration.

## The Tunis Declaration

The landmark ICJ Tunis Declaration on Reinforcing the Rule of Law and Human Rights issued following the ICJ Congress in March 2019 recognizes that, “in recent years there have emerged manifest and widening cracks in the fealty and commitment of States and other powerful actors to the primacy of the Rule of Law and human rights as indispensable to the betterment of the human condition and a dignified life for all people”. It further stresses that “this degradation has been largely driven by a broad questioning of the value of universal human rights, the causes of which are complex, but which has been cynically exploited by authoritarian “populist” leaders and movements and other powerful actors to foment a wider global backlash against the Rule of Law and international human rights law framework”.

## 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. The ICJ-EI works in particular to bring concerns of non-compliance with European and international human rights laws to the attention of institutions and bodies of the European Union and Council of Europe, and to advocate for the strengthening of standards and mechanisms for the protection of human rights at European level. In 2019, the ICJ-EI continued its advocacy work with the institutions of the European Union, focusing on issues of rule of law, migration and counterterrorism.

With regard to migration, the ICJ-EI held a series of trainings for judges and lawyers in Ireland, Italy, Greece and the Czech Republic. The 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.

On counterterrorism the ICJ-EI conducted 4 round-tables in different European cities, Pisa, Madrid, Brussels and the Hague on offences under the EU Counter-terrorism Directive (Directive 2017/541) and their implementation in national courts. Gathering judges and prosecutors from different European countries, these round-tables were the opportunity to foster judicial cooperation in criminal justice and ensure greater compliance with EU and international human rights law in the implementation of the Directive. The expertise and experience of these high-level professionals has now been compiled and will, alongside ICJ-EI specific legal expertise, shape guidance for judges and prosecutors that will be published and disseminated in 2020.

The ICJ-EI continued raising awareness to the serious erosion of the rule of law in Hungary and in 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 intervened as a third party in key cases before the European Court of Human Rights.

The ICJ-EI also works in partnership with CSOs in Africa, where it has recently completed a project to increase access to Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in South Africa and is currently doing similar work in Eswatini. ICJ-EI has for the past three years worked to promote the use of the African human rights mechanisms by civil society for greater compliance with African human rights standards at national level.



## The Role of the ICJ's Commissioners

The expert support provided by its Commissioners is a unique strength of the ICJ that the organization is rightly proud of. In 2019, the 60 legal experts that make-up the Commission have continued to substantially enhance the organization's work, contributing a significant amount of time pro bono.

In most instances the work of ICJ Commissioners is carried out safely, even when working on issues that face opposition from powerful groups and individuals, but this is not always the case and at times the commitment of the ICJ's Commissioners to human rights work can put them in imminent danger. Commissioner Gamal Eid provided advice and technical support to the ICJ on the arrests of numerous lawyers in Egypt, even when he himself was subject to the physical assault and intimidation that is being widely deployed against human rights defenders in that country.

Elsewhere in the Middle East and North Africa, ICJ Chair of the Executive Committee Roberta Clarke and Commissioner Justice Martine Comte participated in advocacy missions to Morocco and Lebanon promoting recommendations from reports on obstacles to women's access to justice and gender-based violence. Other Commissioner work in the region included Justice Kalthoum Kennou's participation in a workshop on ensuring criminal accountability in Tunisia.

In 2019, the ICJ formed an advisory group of Latin American Commissioners, which has been particularly active in work to assess the effectiveness of the transitional justice mechanisms implemented in Colombia as part of the 2016 peace agreement. Activities included Commissioner Dr Rodrigo Uprimny reviewing an ICJ study providing context on the current rights situation, which was built upon by ICJ President Professor Robert K. Goldman, Vice-President Carlos Ayala and Commissioners Wilder Tayler and Justice Philippe Texier participating in two missions to the country, meeting with stakeholders ranging from the President of Colombia to representatives of victims of enforced disappearances and resulting in an ICJ report analysing the mechanism's effectiveness and setting out recommendations for improvement.

Active in Asia, were Commissioners Mikiko Otani and Ambiga Sreenevasan addressing issues of gender equality at the Philippines' National Lawyers Conference and the ICJ's Southeast Asia judicial dialogue on eliminating gender bias in the judiciary. In Nepal, Commissioners Dame Silvia Cartwright, Justice Sanji Monageng and Justice Kalyan Shrestha led a mission assessing the impact of increased federalization on the rule of law and undertook a specific inquiry into the implementation of new penal code provisions to criminalize torture and enforced disappearances.

**'For too many years, the clamour for this law has been loud; now that we have it, we have to interrogate how efficiently we are using it and check for the gaps that we need to address. Its implementation is in our hands, and we cannot allow ourselves to fail those that need our protection; we cannot fall foul of failing in our duty.'**

Justice Qinisile Mabuza, ICJ Commissioner and Principal Judge of the High Court of Eswatini, on the enactment of the 2018 Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence Act (SODVA) in Eswatini

Commissioner Justice Qinisile Mabuza, supported by Commissioners Professor Michelo Hansungule and Justice Sanji Monageng, led a high-level symposium in Eswatini on cases related to economic, social and cultural rights (ESCR) and sexual and gender-based violence, followed up by discussions on the implementation of the Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence Act that the ICJ contributed to enacting. Commissioner Justice Yvonne Mokgoro also engaged in important awareness-raising work on ESCR of women with a keynote address delivered during Women's Month in South Africa.

ICJ Commissioner Justice José Antonio Martín Pallín took part in the first regional meeting of prosecutors from Central Asia and the Russian Federation, discussing international law and standards in extradition, mutual legal assistance, the rule of law and human rights. In Tajikistan, Commissioner Justice Martine Comte led a research mission to assess the independence of the Tajik judiciary.

In addition to extensive Commissioner regional engagement the ICJ also organized a series of high-profile events in Geneva to draw attention to threats to the rule of law and reconnect with the city that has been the home of the ICJ's headquarters for 60 years. Commissioners Reed Brody, Sir Nicolas Bratza and Justice Martine Comte shared their respective experiences in bringing dictators to account, backsliding on human rights in Europe and leading ICJ missions, to a packed audience at the organization's first ever gala event. ICJ Vice-President Radmila Dragicevic-Dicic rose awareness of the challenges facing the independence of the judiciary in Europe with representatives from the legal and diplomatic communities of Geneva at another event.

## Philanthropy & Strategic Partnerships

The Directorate of Philanthropy and Strategic Partnership was created in the summer of 2018 and given the mission to identify, target and approach private donors (HNWI, private donors, private family foundations, general public) to complement the project based fundraising activities of the ICJ.

Its priority is to raise un-earmarked funds to finance core activities of the organization. The actions implemented in late 2018 and 2019 were aimed at raising the ICJ's profile within the Geneva based legal and financial community and establishing partnerships leading to financial support:

*The Geneva Lawyers 60th Anniversary Appeal* project entailed approaching all Geneva based lawyers with a personalized mailing to ask them to support the ICJ's continued actions for the protections of Lawyers on the five continents. It was followed by three high profile events to raise awareness of ICJ's work.

The first event took place at the private Residence of the UK Ambassador to the UN and started with an address of ICJ Commissioner Sir Nicolas Bratza on the importance of the defense of the rule of law in Europe today and was followed by a concert and a reception. The second event, which was organized with the full financial support of the City of Geneva, took place at the prestigious Palais Eynard. Secretary General Sam Zarifi was joined by ICJ Commissioners Dame Silvia Cartwright, Justice Radmila Dragicevic-Dicic and Prof. Carlos Ayala to address 60 guests on the importance of the Rule of Law in their respective region of origin. The third event was to reward Me Jean-Marie Crettaz, member of an ICJ mission in 1987 in South Africa and co-author of the ensuing report.



**'Our support for the ICJ-Geneva Lawyers International Cooperation Initiative is in line with the lawyer's mission as a bulwark against the arbitrariness and the defense advocacy tradition of the Geneva Bar Association. We welcome this collaboration, which is part of the fight for justice and respect for fundamental rights and guarantees.'**

Me Sandrine Giroud, member of the Geneva Bar Council and Chair of its Human Rights Commission

On a philanthropic fundraising approach, we launched 'The ICJ Impact Fund' project. We reached out to large private donors and family foundations and highlighted the important and unique nature of the ICJ's work in upholding justice and human rights around the world. The ICJ Impact Fund is designed to enable the ICJ to react fast to unforeseen crisis situations.

2019 saw the ICJ reconnect with a tradition, very lively at the beginning of its presence in Geneva, to propose professional collaborations to the Geneva legal community, thereby ensuring visibility and inviting support. This strategic partnership called 'The ICJ- Geneva Lawyers International Cooperation Initiative' sent its first two volunteers on observation missions in Ukraine and Guatemala.

Finally, we organized ICJ's first ever Annual Fundraising Gala. It took place at the Palais Eynard on 14 October 2019 and was the culmination point of ICJ activities around its 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in Geneva. Me Pierre de Preux, former Bâtonnier of the Geneva Bar, made a presentation and ICJ Commissioners Sir Nicolas Bratza, Reed Brody and Justice Martine Comte answered the theme of the evening: "Geneva, the defense of the rule of law: What can I do?". The gala was a great success and attracted more than 100 guests.

## Strategic Goal

### 1 Independence of Judges & Lawyers

The ICJ is proud to be at the heart of work to strengthen judicial independence and accountability, essential to upholding human rights, by ensuring justice is administered properly, promoting legal systems that protect against rights' violations and protecting the judges, lawyers and other legal professionals carrying out this work.

# 16

PROJECTS FEEDING INTO THIS STRATEGIC GOAL FOR A TOTAL OF CHF 1,838,256

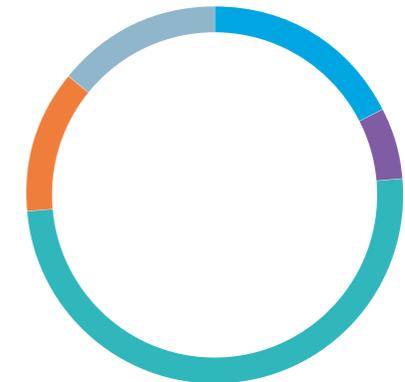
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ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED IN 2019 IN SUPPORT OF THIS STRATEGIC GOAL

# 2,022

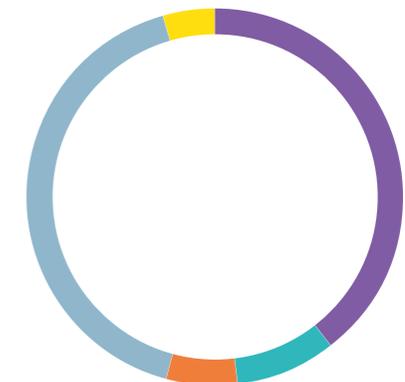
JUDGES, PROSECUTORS, LAWYERS & OTHER ACTORS PARTICIPATED IN WORKSHOPS ON THIS TOPIC

MOST USED WORKING METHODS TO ENHANCE THE INDEPENDENCE OF JUDGES AND LAWYERS



● Advising	20
● Advocacy	7
● Capacity Building	57
● Partnerships	14
● Others	16

ACTIVITIES BY PROGRAMME



● Africa	0
● Asia-Pacific	45
● Europe & CIS	10
● MENA	7
● Latin America	47
● LPO / Global	5

**The role of indigenous and other traditional or customary justice systems in access to justice, human rights and the rule of law**

Indigenous and other traditional or customary justice systems are often more accessible, and may be seen as more legitimate, to local populations than the official court system. However, these systems, like formal courts, can reproduce discriminatory gender stereotypes and cultural assumptions. Since 2017, the ICJ has been bringing together judges, lawyers and other legal experts, from both formal State justice systems and indigenous and other traditional or customary systems. In 2019, the ICJ published a report focused on the Asia-Pacific region, following discussions at the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Geneva Forum of Judges & Lawyers that took place in Thailand in 2018. The report's recommendations state that constitutional or other legal provisions should recognize the role of indigenous justice systems, within an overall framework for protection and promotion of international human rights standards. In September 2019, the report and its recommendations, were promoted at a panel discussion during the UN Human Rights Council convened by the ICJ and UN Special Rapporteur on the rights of Indigenous Peoples.

During 2019, the ICJ also significantly expanded and updated its Compilation of International Sources on Indigenous and other Traditional or Customary Justice Systems, setting out relevant treaty provisions, standards, conclusions and recommendations of UN and other expert bodies. The compilation is the first such publication of its kind, and will aid in coordination, education, and training efforts at national and international levels. In 2020, the ICJ will continue this work by convening concluding forums in Nigeria and then Geneva and publishing comprehensive legal, policy and practical guidance, including recommendations, in relation to access to justice, human rights and the rule of law.

As a direct result of the ICJ's invitation to the UN Special Rapporteur on the rights of Indigenous Peoples to participate in the 2018 Forum, followed by ongoing cooperation between her mandate and the ICJ, the Rapporteur dedicated her 2019 annual report to the UN Human Rights Council to the topic of indigenous justice systems.

The content of the Special Rapporteur's report and its recommendations reflect key elements identified through the activities organized by the ICJ.

**'[...] the consultation was very useful and relevant particularly for me and as well as Cambodia. I hope through (my) participation, I can mainstream that issues through our existing networks of indigenous peoples organizations and land rights based network in Cambodia. I hope we can draw from the experience to advocate and lobby the government as well as the experts in the field of justice systems to have dialogues whether the issues of customary jurisdiction systems can be an issue for indigenous peoples organizations and current jurisdiction systems to discuss.'**

Comment from a participant of the Bangkok Forum



**ICJ recommendations on judicial independence in Moldova become a blueprint for reform**

Since its independence in 1991, Moldova has been facing a difficult transition from authoritarian rule to democracy and the rule of law. The ICJ has been closely following the situation since 2004 and in March 2019, launched a report, *Only an Empty Shell—The Undelivered Promise of an Independent Judiciary in Moldova*. The report, prepared following a 2018 field mission led by experts including ICJ Commissioner Justice Martine Comte, concluded that the judiciary in Moldova was not fully independent: the long process of reforms previously undertaken had left the country with broadly good legislation but with a poor and ineffective implementation system as well as a lack of culture of independence in the judiciary. The report set out a number of specific recommendations to achieve a fully independent judiciary and effective justice system.

Unexpectedly, in June 2019, the Constitutional Court ordered the dissolution of the recently elected Parliament, suspended its functioning, and invalidated its subsequent acts, including the appointment of a government and speaker, triggering the removal of the President. Protests, supported by the ICJ, erupted in and outside the country and eventually led to the resignation of the government in charge and members of the Constitutional Court. Since then, the new government has initiated a comprehensive reform of the judiciary in which the ICJ report and its recommendations are being significantly relied upon. The ICJ's report is also being used extensively by other stakeholders, and notably by the Supreme Council of the Magistracy who cited the report in a recent announcement to improve transparency in its actions. The degree of long-term success of reforms in Moldova's turbulent political landscape will require further monitoring, however, the ICJ's report is currently regarded, by the highest authorities, as the blueprint for judicial reform in the country.

## 2 Strategic Goal Access to Justice for All

Justice is not available to anyone if it is not available to everyone but the reality for many, particularly the most disadvantaged and marginalized, is that there are significant barriers that prevent their being able to access this. For decades the ICJ has undertaken work to identify these barriers and develop the strategies to tear them down.

# 35

PROJECTS FEEDING INTO THIS STRATEGIC GOAL FOR A TOTAL OF CHF 5,001,883

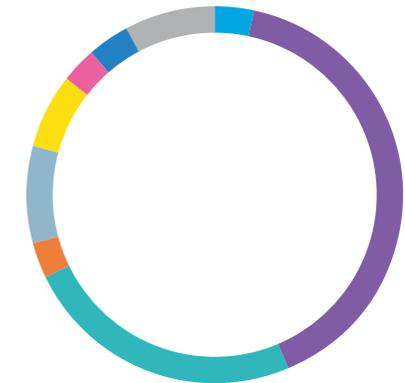
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ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED IN 2019 IN SUPPORT OF THIS STRATEGIC GOAL

# 4,399

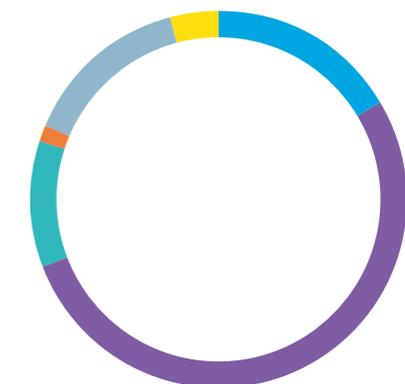
JUDGES, PROSECUTORS, LAWYERS & OTHER ACTORS PARTICIPATED IN WORKSHOPS ON THIS TOPIC

MOST USED WORKING METHODS TO ENHANCE ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR ALL



● Advising	11
● Advocacy	132
● Capacity Building	79
● Fact finding	10
● Partnerships	27
● Publications	21
● Strategic Litigation	10
● Trial Observation	12
● Others	12

ACTIVITIES BY PROGRAMME



● Africa	54
● Asia-Pacific	173
● Europe & CIS	35
● MENA	5
● Latin America	47
● LPO / Global	13

**Uzbekistan: break-through event ensuring the right to housing and economic, social and cultural rights under international human rights law**

Housing rights and the violation of these, including the demolition of houses and other property, have become the most debated issue in contemporary Uzbekistan and courts have often been unable to provide an effective remedy. In 2019, the ICJ and its Uzbek associated partner Yuksalish organized several national trainings and discussions on various aspects of Economic Social and Cultural rights, including an expert discussion, in October 2019, focused on the right to adequate housing. The topic was so sensitive that the event had to be postponed several times before taking place. This was the first ever-public discussion on housing rights and demolitions in Uzbekistan and presented an opportunity for members of the legal profession and human rights defenders to raise their concerns in a forum which also included members of parliament, acting judges, Tashkent city administration, public council, and other stakeholders.

The publicity, including the discussion being shown on Uzbek national television, and smooth running of the event helped demonstrate to both governmental and non-governmental stakeholders that these sensitive discussions could be held in a public domain.

**'It is vital to create opportunities for various groups to speak out on the topic and establish an open dialogue. We hope that today's platform is one of such tools for exchange of opinions.'**

Akmal Burkhanov, Chairperson of the Nationwide Movement Yuksalish

**A reform that can no longer wait: improving access to justice for women and girls in Morocco**

There has been growing momentum to address widespread discrimination and violence by civil society organizations in Morocco, in particular the 2018 adoption of Law 103/03 on combatting violence against women. However, numerous laws, policies and practices continue to perpetuate discrimination and violence against women and to frustrate access to justice. The ICJ's 2019 report on *Obstacles to Women's and Girls' Access to Justice for Gender-based Violence* analysed the de jure and de facto obstacles experienced by women in Morocco seeking justice for sexual and gender based violence, including discriminatory attitudes and stereotypes within the justice system itself. The report's comprehensive list of recommendations were used to engage with and promote identified reforms to judicial, governmental and parliamentary authorities, as well as to enhance the capacity of justice sector actors to address the impact of the documented harmful practices on women's rights.

Advocacy and coordination work by the ICJ, civil society, and a professional association of judges, has resulted in numerous reforms being currently reflected in the process of amending the Criminal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure, and in the Office of the Public Prosecutor's instructions on the application of Law 103/03. The ICJ experience demonstrates that for women's rights reforms to be introduced, and for the courts to fairly and effectively enforce them, reforms must be championed.

**European Court finds Russia's refusal to register LGBT organizations unjustified and discriminatory**

In 2016 the ICJ jointly intervened before the European Court of Human Rights in the case *Zhdanov and Others v. Russia* concerning the state's refusal to register LGBT organizations considered extremist on account of the allegedly immoral character of their activities. The submitted observations focused on the extent of legitimate restrictions on the right to freedom of association, purportedly "for the protection of morals" having regard to the right to respect for private life. The joint submission put forward that it was impossible to protect individual rights if people were unable to create associations to defend common needs and interests. The right to freedom of association was therefore a unique human right, and any restrictions of that right required a strong justification and should be interpreted narrowly.

On 16 July 2019, the European Court of Human Rights delivered its judgment in the case, taking account of the ICJ's joint intervention, and found that Russia's refusal to register the applicants' organizations had been in violation of Articles 11 and 14 of the European Convention on Human Rights. In the Court's view the Russian authorities' refusal to register these organizations could not be reasonably or objectively justified and had, moreover, amounted to discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation. This judgment is important in Russia, across the European Union, and even beyond due to the growing influence of comparative jurisprudence, in reaffirming the importance for the LGBTI community to be able to group together and organize themselves around shared causes.



**Southeast Asia: Protecting the rights to freedom of expression and information online**

In 2019, the ICJ undertook extensive research and mapped out a general pattern across Southeast Asia of States abusing legal frameworks to systematically violate rights of freedom of expression, opinion and information in the online sphere. This research was set out in an ICJ report, the first and only publication of its kind in the region, *Dictating the Internet: Curtailing Free Expression, Opinion and Information Online in Southeast Asia*. The report was launched, with overwhelmingly positive feedback, in Thailand with a panel discussion and then closed-door roundtable discussion, which brought together experts, advocates and researchers to identify key challenges faced in ensuring human rights protections online, and consider potential legal and policy solutions. The report has provided human rights defenders, litigators, digital rights activists, tech sector actors and tech companies with a sourcebook on the laws and relevant caselaw in Southeast Asia that curtail freedom of expression and information online. The ICJ will build on this work, with further stakeholder collaboration, to formulate legal and policy guidelines and strategy on freedom of expression and information online for Southeast Asia, and by replicating this project in South Asia.

**'It's not a pretty picture, laws are used to harass and threaten human rights defenders, lawyers, journalists and others... New legal frameworks are being seen as an opportunity to consolidate and protect political power.'**

Frederick Rawski, ICJ director of Asia and the Pacific, quoted in the Bangkok Post

**ICJ supports the Makana Municipality dissolution, upholding the rule of law in South Africa**

The Makana Municipality governs the town of Makhanda and surrounding areas in the Eastern Cape province of South Africa. In February 2019 the Unemployed People's Movement (UPM) and other civil society organizations brought an application against the Municipality to the Makhana High Court, accusing it of corruption and violating its constitutional mandate by failing to provide basic services to the community, including water and sewerage services. The ICJ decided to support this case.

The ICJ's support in 2019 included trial observation and advocacy support, facilitating the participation of approximately 100 community members in attending court proceedings, providing media assistance and awareness raising. On 14 January 2020, the Makhanda High Court ordered the Makana Municipality to be dissolved and placed under administration. This judgment is the first of its kind in South Africa and the implications will be far reaching and set an important precedent making it easier to achieve accountability against dysfunctional municipalities and for people to demand good governance and access to basic services through court processes.



### 3 Strategic Goal Increased Accountability for Human Rights Violations & Abuses

The ICJ is concerned with ensuring accountability for human rights violations and abuses. This involves ensuring that perpetrators of human rights violations are held accountable; victims are empowered to demand truth, justice and reparation; and that policymakers or legal frameworks adhere to international law and standards providing for truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence.

# 11

PROJECTS FEEDING INTO THIS STRATEGIC GOAL FOR A TOTAL OF CHF 5,001,883

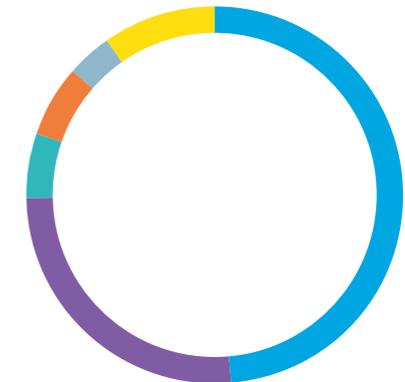
# 127

ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED IN 2019 IN SUPPORT OF THIS STRATEGIC GOAL

# 1,467

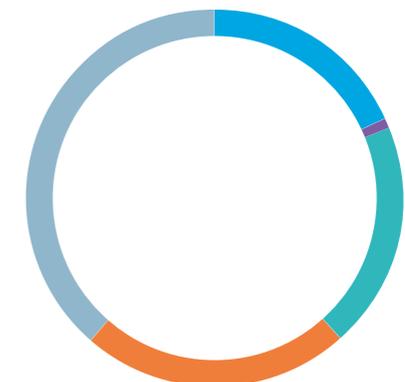
JUDGES, PROSECUTORS, LAWYERS & OTHER ACTORS PARTICIPATED IN WORKSHOPS ON THIS TOPIC

MOST USED WORKING METHODS TO INCREASE ACCOUNTABILITY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS



Advocacy	62
Capacity Building	33
Fact finding	7
Publications	8
Strategic Litigation	5
Others	12

ACTIVITIES BY PROGRAMME



Africa	0
Asia-Pacific	23
Europe & CIS	1
MENA	25
Latin America	29
LPO / Global	49

**'I will use these interesting discussions in my submissions to the court and make reference to international law and standards in my pleading before the Specialized Criminal Chambers.'**

*A Lawyer from Tunis*

#### **Development and Implementation of the Minnesota Protocol through the ICJ's Global Redress and Accountability Initiative**

Investigations into potentially unlawful deaths according to international law help hold perpetrators accountable, providing redress to victims. Since 2014, the ICJ has helped develop and support the implementation of the Minnesota Protocol in Asia, the Middle East and South America through justice system actors.

Working on reforming the justice system in Thailand for over a decade, the ICJ has developed strong relationships with justice actors. The revised Minnesota Protocol was launched in Bangkok in 2017, followed by the ICJ, Ministry of Justice and OHCHR trainings for justice actors on the investigation of potentially unlawful deaths and enforced disappearances. In June and July 2018, these trainings were expanded to involve justice actors from Nepal, Myanmar and Cambodia. The ICJ has conducted similar trainings in Guatemala, Tunisia, Myanmar, and in universities. Following trainings in Myanmar, the ICJ learned in 2019 that police had distributed copies of the revised Minnesota Protocol nationally, finding these guidelines easier to understand than the existing official guidance.

The ICJ Practitioners' Guide details the investigation and prosecution of potentially unlawful death based on the revised Minnesota Protocol and will be used in upcoming trainings. The ICJ also launched a project on combatting impunity for serious human rights violations in Colombia, Guatemala and Peru. As part of this, the ICJ will produce a guide to the revised Minnesota Protocol for civil society and victim groups, working with former UN Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions who led the revision of the Protocol, Christof Heyns.

The ICJ's work has been recognized by diplomatic missions and UN agencies, with requests for a training package with a training-of-trainer approach to be disseminated. This would ultimately enhance sustainability of the initiative by ensuring a core body of trainers with suitable knowledge is present in each country independent of the ICJ.

#### **Supporting judges, prosecutors and lawyers in overcoming obstacles to accountability for past human rights violations in Tunisia**

Tunisia's 2011 popular uprising ended decades of authoritarian rule and gross human rights violations. Victims' pursuit of justice led to the 2013 Law on Transitional Justice being adopted, which established the Truth and Dignity Commission (IVD) and the Specialized Criminal Chambers (SCC). The IVD received over 62,000 reports and referred 200 cases to the SCC, who have jurisdiction over gross human rights violations that occurred since independence. Opening trials before the SCC is a key step toward justice and accountability, however some legal obstacles and Tunisian authorities' delay in implementing IVD's final recommendations undermines their operation, and the right of victims to judicial remedies.

In 2019 the ICJ, the *Association des Magistrats Tunisiens* (AMT) and the National Independent Coalition for Transitional Justice, organized five training seminars, each targeting 30 SCC justice actors. The trainings aimed at reinforcing capacity to combat impunity for past crimes and guaranteeing respect for international norms and best practices. The ICJ published, in November 2019, a Practical Guide on "Accountability Through the Specialized Criminal Chambers: The Adjudication of Crimes Under Tunisian and International Law". The ICJ also addressed the lack of institutional support for the IVD's recommendations and attacks against the SCC and their work. Advocacy by the ICJ and others succeeded in pushing back against, and halting the passing of the draft law on transitional justice. Tunis SCC President Justice Ridha Yakoub appointed a "*juge rapporteur*" to head conducting the necessary complementary investigations, with some Presidents following suit. This approach was explored during an ICJ seminar. In addition, ICJ and AMT advocacy pushed other changes in the SCC such as the appointment of two additional judges to each Chambers.

Authorities' disengagement from and pushback against the transitional justice process has been a challenge. The ICJ renewed its efforts to counter initiatives which undermine the SCC's work and the progress by the transitional justice process. The ICJ discussed these concerns and others with the Tunisian High Judicial Council and Ministry of Justice and raised it with the UN Human Rights Committee, who included the ICJ's recommendations in its report to Tunisian authorities. In response to SCC justice actors' demands for additional guidance, the ICJ is producing three additional Practical Guides to follow the Guide published in 2019 and will continue to regularly meet with the Tunis SCC judges to discuss challenges and areas of support.



### **Myanmar: A rounded approach to accountability in tackling serious human rights violations**

Myanmar's failure to conduct investigations and prosecutions of those responsible for crimes under international law against the Rohingya and other minorities, and provide them with remedies and reparation has demanded the intervention of accountability initiatives such as the International Criminal Court (ICC), the Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar, and the International Court of Justice. However, there is a lack of awareness about these mechanisms' mandates and how to access them among members of Myanmar's society. The ICJ offers assistance in bringing Myanmar's laws in line with its international human rights obligations, working with domestic justice actors and international accountability actors. These efforts are echoed through work with victims, human rights defenders and lawyers, focussing on making international justice mechanisms more accessible and relevant.

**'It is critical that victims sitting inside Myanmar and Bangladesh are not left behind. [...] Myanmar itself must alter course and start ensuring full accountability for serious human rights violations that have occurred within the country.'**

Kingsley Abbott, ICJ Senior Legal Adviser and Coordinator of the Global Accountability Initiative, on BBC News

In early 2019, the ICJ met with the Rohingya refugee community living in Cox's Bazaar, Bangladesh to explain accountability initiatives underway internationally and held a workshop in Dhaka about applicable international legal mechanisms to achieve accountability for serious human rights violations for Bangladeshi lawyers, activists and academics. When camp leaders in Cox's Bazaar praised the ICJ's approach compared to other international efforts, the ICJ developed an ongoing project to provide them with regular updates on accountability-related developments. The ICJ also published legal briefing papers, and brought human rights defenders from Myanmar to the UN Human Rights Council. In August 2019, the ICJ Initiative spoke to the BBC's Burmese broadcasting service about how the ICC plans to investigate the alleged crime against humanity of forced movement of Rohingya from Myanmar to Bangladesh, attracting nearly 1 million views. That November, The Gambia instituted proceedings before the International Court of Justice alleging Myanmar

had violated its obligations under the Genocide Convention in its treatment of the Rohingya minority and requesting the Court to indicate provisional measures, the hearing of which was held between 10-12 December 2019. Ahead of the hearing, the ICJ published a legal briefing paper on the proceedings in English and Burmese. Ambassadors to Myanmar also invited the ICJ to provide personal briefings on the case. Meetings were also held with staff of other embassies and Myanmar lawyers. The ICJ is sustaining its efforts to ensure that steps towards accountability are strengthened, and victims of human rights violations, particularly the Rohingya and other minorities, obtain remedies and redress consistent with international law standards.

### **Colombia: Progress in monitoring the Special Jurisdiction for Peace to strengthen the effective participation of victims in its procedures and guarantee victims' rights to justice**

Colombia's transitional justice tribunal, the Special Jurisdiction for Peace (known as the JEP by its acronym in Spanish), is a judicial tribunal created by an amendment to the Colombian constitution in 2017. This, to comply with the Peace Agreement between the Colombian government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (People's Army) in 2016. The JEP oversees the investigation and prosecution of human rights violations committed during the Colombian armed conflict, ongoing since 1964. It began in January 2018, and has made progress in fulfilling its mandate to fight impunity. However, the JEP faces several challenges in fully protecting and guaranteeing victims' rights and ensuring that authorities respect the independence of the Special Jurisdiction.

The ICJ sent a high-level mission to Colombia in January 2019, to evaluate the implementation of the JEP. The report produced from this provides analysis and recommendations. The report also highlights the importance of guaranteeing the JEP's judicial independence to ensure the proper exercise of its functions. The ICJ presented the report in June to Colombian authorities, including the President of Colombia Iván Duque Márquez and the President of the JEP Patricia Linares Prieto, victims and members of civil society. In September the ICJ held an event at the 42<sup>nd</sup> session of the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) with the Colombian Commission of Jurists, analysing the implementation of the JEP. The ICJ also supported this by presenting an oral statement at the session addressing the challenges the Special Jurisdiction faces.

The ICJ's report has been widely shared among state institutions, donors, and civil society. The report is expected to have a notable impact on strengthening the effective participation of victims in the procedures of the JEP, as well as in guaranteeing victims' rights to justice and full reparation in compliance with international standards. Achieving sustainable peace is not possible without guaranteeing victims' rights.

### **Venezuela: Joining efforts to ensure accountability for human rights' violations committed in the region**

The human rights situation and the rule of law in Venezuela has strongly deteriorated in the past few years. The National Constituent Assembly (NCA), convened by the government in 2017, was created in an atmosphere of political polarization, under the pretext of drafting a new Constitution. This was deemed necessary to bring stability to the country which was experiencing mass demonstrations, repression and violence. The NCA was created after the opposition to the ruling party won the National Assembly in 2015, giving rise to its wielding of legislative power, and devastating effect on the rule of law in the country. Given that Venezuelan authorities have been unable to pursue domestic accountability and judicial mechanisms lack independence and impartiality, there has been a need for international intercession.

Since 2014, the ICJ has monitored and documented the situation in Venezuela. The ICJ has produced six reports that analyse the lack of judicial independence and absence of accountability for those responsible for gross human rights violations. In 2019, the ICJ joined in calling for the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) to establish a Commission of Inquiry (COI) on Venezuela, presenting an oral statement before the Council during its 42<sup>nd</sup> session. Due to the joint advocacy, during its 42<sup>nd</sup> session the UNHRC approved a resolution to create the Independent Fact-Finding Mission (IFFM) to investigate extrajudicial executions, enforced disappearances, arbitrary detentions and torture and other cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment since 2014, and to ensure accountability for perpetrators and justice for victims. While the IFFM was not the Commission of Inquiry the ICJ advocated for, it is an international mechanism that aims to pursue domestic accountability of gross human rights' violations as well as the independence and impartiality of the Venezuelan judicial and prosecutorial mechanisms.

The IFFM marks a significant first step towards accountability and justice. With ongoing advocacy, there is hope for the creation of the COI. The ICJ will continue working to restore the rule of law and independence of the judiciary in Venezuela, by monitoring the functioning of the IFFM, engaging with civil society, and producing updated reports on the situation. This requires sustained efforts by local and international civil society. The ICJ will continue its efforts to ensure that these preliminary steps are sustained.

**'The focus of this report is on the usurpation of the authority of the legislative by the government in Venezuela. This comes after the judiciary was taken over. It seems quite clear that in response to the loss of direct support in the legislative assembly, the government decided to completely trample on the principle of the rule of law really and separation of powers. Addressing the problem of the National Constituent Assembly is a crucial step in any political solution to the crisis that has gripped Venezuela.'**

Sam Zarifi, ICJ Secretary General, quoted by Reuters

## 4 Strategic Goal The Rule of Law & International Standards & Instruments

As part of its directive in ensuring that international and regional instruments and mechanisms are adhered to, further developed, and protected, the ICJ is honored to report its advocacy for further progress at the UN on business and human rights in support of a legally binding instrument.

# 4

PROJECTS FEEDING INTO THIS  
STRATEGIC GOAL FOR A TOTAL  
OF CHF 880,369

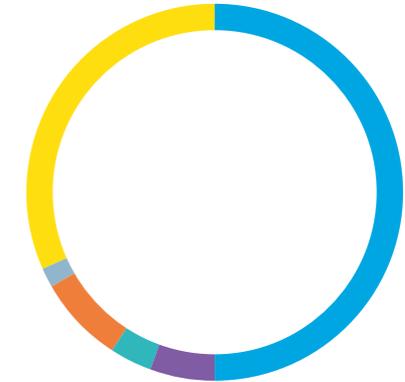
# 54

ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED  
IN 2019 IN SUPPORT OF THIS  
STRATEGIC GOAL

# 982

STATE OFFICIALS, MEMBERS OF  
INTER-GOVERNMENTAL MECHANISMS  
& OTHERS PARTICIPATED  
IN ACTIVITIES ON THIS TOPIC

MOST USED WORKING METHODS  
TO PROTECT AND INCREASE  
THE EFFECTIVENESS OF INTERNATIONAL  
& REGIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS  
MECHANISMS



Advocacy	27
Legal Submission	3
Legal Fora	2
Publications	4
Strategic Litigation	1
Others	17

Human rights take a backseat in the context of global business operations despite the reality that businesses, as much as States and other actors, can affect human rights. The United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) adopted resolution 26/9 in 2014, creating an intergovernmental working group to form a treaty on business and human rights. The ICJ has consistently called for an international, legally binding instrument to regulate the conduct of business enterprises and the States' role in regulating business and ensuring victims have full and effective access to justice, to complement existing United Nations (UN) Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. Through steady engagement with concerned parties, the ICJ has been instrumental in moving the UN towards developing a draft treaty.

In meetings with the UNHRC in 2016, the ICJ urged the UN and Member States to enable civil society and State participation during the Open-Ended Intergovernmental Working Group (OEIWG) on business enterprises and human rights. The ICJ published *Proposals for Elements of a Legally Binding Instrument on Transnational Corporations and other Business Enterprises* and helped produce a treaty alliance statement in 2016. With the Child Rights International Network, the ICJ published a practical guide on how to use the UN Committee of the Rights of the Child's 16<sup>th</sup> General Comment.

After continued engagement with stakeholders in 2017, the ICJ achieved a breakthrough in July 2018 when the UN released the "Zero Draft" of a proposed universal treaty on business and human rights. The ICJ provided comments and recommendations to strengthen selected provisions according to human rights and rule of law at the intergovernmental negotiation in October 2018. The revised draft, released in July 2019, contained important developments, integrating elements of the ICJ's recommendations. This formed the basis for negotiations during the fifth session of the OEGWG in October 2019. While many aspects of the treaty require refinement, the revised draft treaty is crucial in establishing a legally binding instrument in the field of business and human rights and the ICJ will continue to advocate for the process to be completed.



5 Strategic Goal  
Domestic Implementation  
& Compliance with Global  
& Regional Standards

The ability of lawyers and judges to draw on international and regional standards can help strengthen protection against human rights violations on a national level, however, often these standards aren't fully integrated into local systems. The ICJ works with national partners to increase awareness and encourage utilization of these international standards within domestic legal systems.

14

PROJECTS FEEDING INTO THIS STRATEGIC GOAL FOR A TOTAL OF CHF 3,063,576

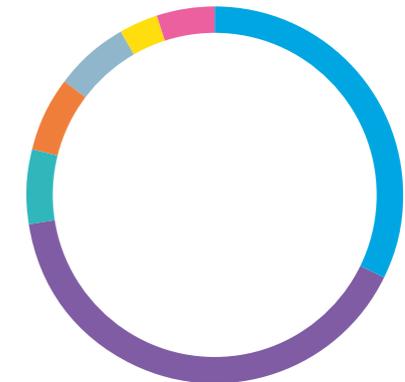
497

JUDGES, PROSECUTORS, LAWYERS AND OTHER ACTORS PARTICIPATED IN WORKSHOPS ON THIS TOPIC

62

ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED IN 2019 IN SUPPORT OF THIS STRATEGIC GOAL

MOST USED WORKING METHODS TO INCREASE DOMESTIC COMPLIANCE & IMPLEMENTATION



Advocacy	20
Capacity Building	25
Fact finding	4
Legal Submission	4
Partnerships	4
Publications	2
Strategic Litigation	3

ACTIVITIES BY PROGRAMME

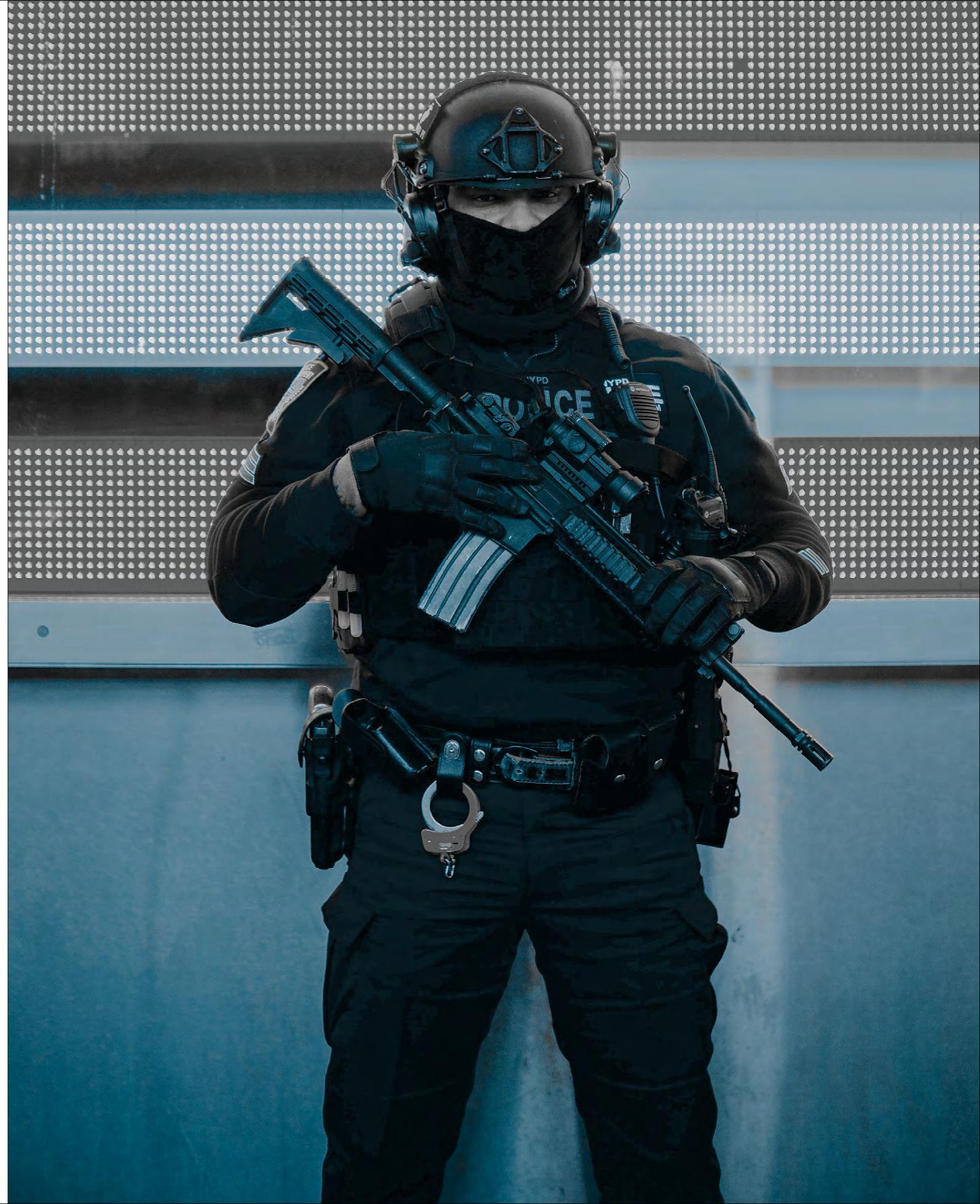


Africa	12
Asia-Pacific	12
Europe & CIS	17
MENA	16
Latin America	5
LPO / Global	0

### Workshops for judges and lawyers on counter-terrorism legislation and human rights

Under European Law, the EU Counter-terrorism Directive (Directive 2017/541) provides for new criminal offences that Member States must enact to tackle acts linked to terrorism, such as participation in a terrorist group or the provision of training or travel for the purpose of terrorism. The ICJ has stated that an implementation of the Directive compliant with human rights law is possible and obligatory. Since 2018, the ICJ's "JUSTICE" project has focused on criminal justice in countering terrorism in accordance with human rights obligations working on five main countries: the Netherlands, Italy, Spain, Germany and Belgium; and on seven second-tier level countries: France, Cyprus, Greece, Poland, Portugal, Czech Republic and Romania.

The ICJ and its national partners conducted a baseline study on all twelve countries, which was shared with the European Union Commission and with the Fundamental Rights Agency and has been incorporated in their broader research into the impacts of the Directive in the European Union. The ICJ study also shaped the content of the discussions of four transnational workshops organized in 2019 that took place in Pisa, the Hague, Madrid and Brussels focusing on different elements of the counter terrorism legislation and its impact. These workshops gathered together judges, prosecutors, lawyers and other experts from all twelve target countries and enabled participants to see the differences and commonalities that exist between the different legal systems and to discuss the impact of the application of counter terrorism legislation on human rights. The information gathered from the baseline study and transnational workshops will inform the ICJ's Guidance for Judges on the application of the Directive on counter terrorism, which will be widely disseminated to judges across Europe to support them and ensure counter terrorism legislation is in line with international human rights standards.





## Media & Communication

In 2019, the ICJ has increased its media capacity by hiring media and communication officers in South Africa and Thailand. These new additions have already improved the ICJ's regional and international presence and visibility, in support of the important ongoing work spearheaded from Geneva. The Communication and Media department has also conducted training for regional programme staff to improve the quality and reach of press releases and other media work.

Last year, the ICJ has achieved its best result ever in terms of total media hits (from 3,049 hits in 2018 to 4,103 hits in 2019, hence an increase of around 35%). The percentage of total media hits in international media has exceeded 72%, well above the target of 50%.

2019 also saw an increased presence on social media, particularly Twitter. While the overall number of ICJ Twitter followers remains relatively low compared to large human rights NGOs, encouragingly, the number of followers has increased by around 60% compared to 2018 and their level of engagement with ICJ's tweets has been very high.

2019 has also seen increased traffic to the ICJ's website, as a result of its new compatibility with mobile devices (since October 2018), the development of the Spanish, French and Russian language platforms (also in 2018), and the steady increase of ICJ followers on social media, especially Twitter. In 2019 the ICJ website has received 296,180 visits against 161,285 visits in 2018 (which corresponds to a significant 84% increase).

When it comes to multimedia work, the ICJ has continued to prioritize the production of quality videos either in-house or through external service providers (as much as resources allowed). Overall, 12 videos have been produced in 2019. Of particular interest, in December the ICJ has launched the animated video titled "UN Committee Recommends Socio-Economic Rights Protections in South Africa". As part of the Global Redress and Accountability Initiative, the ICJ has also launched a 15-minute documentary showing contributions by the ICJ and local HRDs in bringing the Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence (SODV) Act to pass in Mbabane, Eswatini.

Finally, to close the year marking the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ICJ's establishment in Geneva, in April 2019 the ICJ renewed its advertisement and visibility campaign on the TV screens of the Geneva public transportation network on the theme of 'Combating Impunity Together, everywhere'.

INCREASED MEDIA COVERAGE

48

48 PRESS RELEASES ISSUED  
(32 ISSUED IN 2018)

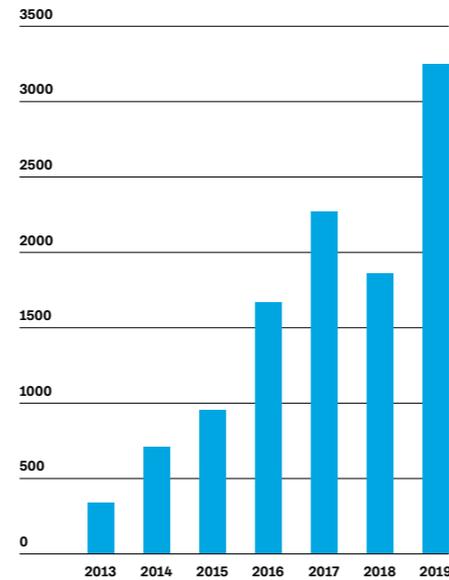
89.6%

OF PRESS RELEASES COVERED  
(90% IN 2018)

79.2%

OF HITS IN INTERNATIONAL MEDIA  
(61% IN 2018)

INTERNATIONAL MEDIA HITS  
BETWEEN 2013 AND 2019



INCREASED PRESENCE ON TWITTER

60%

INCREASE IN NUMBER OF FOLLOWERS

936.8K

IMPRESSIONS OVERALL

0.95%

AVERAGE ENGAGEMENT RATE

INCREASED TRAFFIC TO ICJ WEBSITE

296,180

VISITS  
[84% INCREASE COMPARED TO 2018]

218,957

VISITORS  
[106% INCREASE COMPARED TO 2018]

55%

OF VISITORS AGED BELOW 35 YEARS OLD

21

PUBLICATIONS

- ANNUAL REPORT
- NEW PRACTITIONERS' GUIDE
- TRAINING MODULES ON MIGRATION & ASYLUM LAW IN TURKEY
- GUIDE TO ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, & CULTURAL RIGHTS IN SOUTH AFRICA
- 17 REPORTS



## Financial Report

The ICJ's financial statements for the year ending 31 December 2019 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 2019 resulted in an increase (13%) in expenditure, with a total operating expenditure of more than 12.8 million Swiss Francs. Of that total operating expenditure, 89% was spent on project activities and 11% was spent on global programme activities, including governance, quality control, project and change management and support services.

An important part of contributions are paid in foreign currencies so the ICJ has to continue to work towards mitigating exchange risks. In 2019, the ICJ did not suffer any major currency loss. The accounting policy on revenue recognition has been reviewed, changing the comparison levels for contributions but the level of income to finance activities has increased by 9% from CHF 9.5 million to CHF 10.4 million. Unrestricted funds have decreased from CHF 1.9 million to CHF 1.2 million creating an important gap and a loss for 2019. ICJ's financial health had improved in 2018 but due to the lack of unrestricted funds that the ICJ has been facing over the last years except in 2018, the situation requires quickly and steadily improving fundraising while working on resource utilization.

Projections for 2020 due to the current crisis are not as optimistic as they were previously, requiring a review of the budgets of the organization. The ICJ has been working to align financial and risk management policies and procedures and has now implemented new tools and procedures that are helping to provide a better financial management.

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 2019 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 2019.

COMBINED BALANCE SHEET FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2019  
with comparative figures for 2018  
in Swiss francs

ASSETS	2019	2018
<b>Current assets</b>		
Cash & cash equivalents	1'814'709	5'581'822
Grants receivable (short term)	3'211'501	5'581'969
Provision on grants	-	-83'206
Other current assets	759'453	517'250
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>5'785'664</b>	<b>11'597'835</b>
<b>Non-current assets</b>		
Grants receivable (long term)	-	5'330'248
Tangible and intangible assets	-	4'155
Financial assets	64'082	67'115
<b>Total non-current assets</b>	<b>64'082</b>	<b>5'401'518</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>5'849'746</b>	<b>16'999'353</b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; FUNDS</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>
<b>Short-term liabilities</b>		
Operating liabilities	945'722	792'699
Accrued liabilities	498'638	410'311
Contributions received in advance	-	1'242'689
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<b>1'444'360</b>	<b>2'445'699</b>
<b>Restricted funds</b>		
Funds restricted to projects	4'781'079	14'390'197
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	<b>4'781'079</b>	<b>14'390'197</b>
<b>Capital of the organization</b>		
General reserves	164'064	907
Income / (loss) for the year	-513'426	163'157
Foreign currency translation reserve	-26'331	-608
<b>Total capital of the organization</b>	<b>-375'693</b>	<b>163'456</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; FUNDS</b>	<b>5'849'746</b>	<b>16'999'353</b>

COMBINED STATEMENT OF INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2019  
with comparative figures for 2018  
in Swiss francs

INCOME	2019	2018
Contributions for projects	8'767'385	12'782'529
Overheads from projects	626'209	
Contributions for the Commission	1'183'503	1'918'204
Other income	27'248	
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>10'604'346</b>	<b>14'700'733</b>
<b>OPERATING EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>
Staff	-5'640'839	-4'949'476
Meeting & travel costs	-2'942'578	-3'238'089
Consultancy fees	-2'854'856	-2'194'377
Publication and promotion costs	-47'491	-63'316
Communication costs	-151'831	-69'507
Office premises	-831'098	-661'513
Other administrative expenditures	-336'448	-118'507
<b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>-12'805'142</b>	<b>-11'294'785</b>
<b>OPERATING RESULT</b>	<b>-2'200'796</b>	<b>3'405'948</b>
Non-operating result, net	4'813	16'018
Financial (expenses) / income, net	76'204	293'754
Variation of the provision of loss on receivables	16'679	-84'321
Variation of the provision on finished projects	-	-167'139
<b>Intermediate result before change in funds</b>	<b>-2'103'100</b>	<b>3'464'260</b>
Attribution to restricted funds	-8'767'385	-12'782'529
Use of restricted funds	10'357'059	9'481'426
<b>Change in restricted funds</b>	<b>1'589'674</b>	<b>-3'301'103</b>
<b>(LOSS) / PROFIT FOR THE YEAR</b>	<b>-513'426</b>	<b>163'157</b>

# ICJ Partnerships in 2019

## O

- The 88 Project

## A

- Abahlali base Mjondolo
- Access Nowt
- Acción Solidaria
- Accountability International
- Advocacy Forum (AF)
- African Centre for Democracy and Human Rights Studies
- African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights
- Alexandra Lily Kather
- AmerBon Advocates
- Amnesty International (AI)
- Amsterdam University, Law Faculty Business and Human Rights Clinic
- Anas Sadoun
- Article 19
- Arvind Narrain, ARC International
- ASEAN Parliamentarians for Human Rights (APHR)
- ASEAN Trade Union Council (ATUC)
- ASEAN SOGI CAUCUS
- Asia Internet Coalition
- Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development (FORUM-ASIA)
- Asian Network for Free Elections (ANFREL)
- Asociación Familiares de Detenidos Desaparecidos de Guatemala (FAMDEGUA)
- Asociación Red de Defensores y Defensoras de Derechos Humanos
- Association for Progressive Communications
- Association for the Prevention of Torture (APT)
- Athaan Myanmar
- Attorney General's Office, Myanmar
- Avocats sans Frontières

## B

- Bar Council of Malaysia
- Business and Human Rights Resource Centre (BHRRRC)

## C

- Centro Derechos Humanos de la Universidad Católica Andrés Bello
- Child Rights Connect
- CIVICUS
- Civilis Derechos Humanos
- Civil Rights Defenders
- Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies
- Cambodian Human Rights and Development Association (ADHOC)
- Cambodian League for the Promotion and Defense of Human Rights (LICADHO)
- Cambodian Center for Human Rights (CCHR)
- Centre for Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR Center)
- Centro de Justicia Y Paz (CEPAZ)
- Civilis Derechos Humanos

- The Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines
- Cross Cultural Foundation (CrCF)
- Colombian Commission of Jurists
- Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI)
- Community Resource Centre Foundation (CRC)
- COFAVIC
- Cooperation for the Development of Emerging Countries

## D

- Defender Centre for Human Rights (Libya)
- Delegation of the European Union (EU) to Libya
- Democratic Association of Women in Morocco
- dhColombia
- Duaj Jai Group (NGO)

## E

- EarthRights International
- EEC Watch
- Embassy of Denmark
- Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to Libya (Tunis Office)
- ENLAWTHAI Foundation (EnLaw)
- Espacio Público
- Equal Asia Foundation
- Equality Myanmar
- Equipo Argentino de Antropología Forense (EAAF)
- Equipo Peruano de Antropología Forense (EPAF)
- ESCR-Net - International Network for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
- EU Border Assistance Mission in Libya
- European Council on Refugees and Exiles, Belgium

## F

- Fortify Rights
- Federal Court of Malaysia
- Forum for Human Rights, Czech Republic
- Foundation for Socio-Economic Justice
- Franciscans International
- Free Expression Myanmar
- Frontline Defenders
- Fundación de Antropología Forense de Guatemala (FAFG)

## G

- Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect
- The Global Initiative
- Great Zimbabwe University
- Greek Council for Refugees

## H

- Have Only Positive Expectations (HOPE)
- Human Rights Watch
- Human Rights Lawyers Association (HRLA)
- Human Rights Joint Platform, Turkey
- Human Rights in Practice Stichting, the Netherlands

## I

- IBAHRI
- IDLO
- Independent Lawyers Association Myanmar (ILAM)
- Indonesia Global Justice (IGJ)
- INGO Forum
- Instituto de Defensa Legal (IDL)
- Integrated Bar of the Philippines
- Inter Mountain Peoples Education and Culture in Thailand Association (IMPECT)
- International Commission of Jurists Kenya Section
- International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH)
- International Disability Alliance
- International Movement Against all forms of Discrimination and Racism (IMADR)
- International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims
- International Service for Human Rights (ISHR)
- International Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ICNL)
- International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)
- Internet Law Reform Dialogue (iLaw)
- International Women's Rights Action Watch-Asia Pacific (IWRAP-AP)
- Immigrant Council of Ireland, Ireland
- International Commission of Jurists—European Institutions, Belgium

## J

- Jeepyah Social Services
- JM-PPK/ Jaringan Masyarakat Peduli Pegunungan Kendeng (Network of People who Care for Kendeng Mountain)
- Judicial Institute for Africa
- Judicial Service Commission of Zimbabwe

## K

- Komnas Perempuan/ Komisi Nasional Anti Kekerasan terhadap Perempuan (National Commission On Violence Against Women)
- Kompolnas/ Komisi Kepolisian Nasional (National Police Commission of Indonesia)
- Kapunungan sa mga Pilipinong Hukom (HUKOM)
- Karenni National Women Organization (KNWO)
- KASBI/ Kongres Aliansi Serikat Buruh Indonesia (Confederation of Congress of Indonesian)

## L

- Lamia Farhani
- Lawyers for Human Rights
- Law Society of Swaziland
- Law Society of Zimbabwe
- Lawyers for Justice Libya
- Lawyers for Liberty
- Lawyers Rights Watch Canada (LRWC)
- Land Watch
- Lao Movement for Human Rights
- Legal Policy Research Centre, Kazakhstan
- Legal Clinic Myanmar (LCM)

- Legal Initiatives for Vietnam
- Legal Research and Development Center, Faculty of Law, Chiangmai University (LRDC)
- Legal Resources Foundation
- Lesotho National Federation of Organizations of the Disabled
- LGBT rights network
- Libyan Network for Legal Aid
- Lionel Blackman
- Loka Ahlin
- Louise Hooper

## M

- Mahkamah Agung Republik Indonesia (Supreme Court of the Republic of Indonesia)
- Malaysian Center for Constitutionalism and Human Rights (MCCHR)
- Malaysian Trade Union Congress (MTUC)
- Manggagawa ng Komunikasyon sa Pilipinas (MKP)
- Manushya Foundation
- Marina Mattiolo
- Mark Kersten
- Mary Fitzgerald
- Mazen Mansour
- Midlands State University
- Mon Women's Organisation
- Moroccan Judges' Club
- Mülteci Hakları Dernegi, Turkey
- Mülteciilerle Dayanisma Dernegi, Turkey
- Muslim Attorney's Centre (MAC)
- Myanmar Media Lawyers Network

## N

- National Commission for Lebanese Women
- National Independent Coalition for Transitional Justice (Tunisia)
- National Human Rights Commission of Thailand (NHRCT)
- National Judicial Academy (NJA)
- National Prosecuting Authority of Zimbabwe
- Naomi Kefford
- Nayla Geagea
- Nederlands Juristen Comitee voor de Mensenrechten, the Netherlands
- Nepal National Judicial Academy (NJA)
- Nepal Police Human Rights Cell
- Network Activities Group
- Norwegian Refugee Council

## O

- OMCT
- Outright International

## P

- Patani Human Rights Organization (HAP)
- Paung Ku
- Permanent Mission of the Federal Republic of Germany to the United Nations in Geneva

- Permanent Mission of Finland to the United Nations in Geneva
- Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the United Nations in Geneva
- Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations in Geneva
- Phan Tee Eian (Creative Home)
- Faculty of Law, Prince of Songkhla University
- PROVEA

## R

- Radhouan Ouerthy
- Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law (RWI)
- Reporters Sans Frontières
- Ridha Yaakoub
- Rights and Liberties Protection Department, Ministry of Justice

## S

- SADC Lawyers' Association
- Salah El Marghani
- Sathi Foundation
- Dr. L. Ramakrishnan, SAATHII
- Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna, Italy
- Sisters in Islam
- Socio-Economic Rights Institute
- South African Institute for Advanced Constitutional, Public, Human Rights and International Law
- Southern African Human Rights Defenders' Network
- South African Judicial Education Institute
- Sri Lanka Judges' Institute
- Suara Rakyat Malaysia (SUARAM)
- Supreme Court of the Philippines
- Syrian Center for Media and Freedom of Expression

## T

- Tajikistan Bar Association, Tajikistan
- Taunggyi Youth Center
- Terai Human Rights Defenders Alliance (THRDA)
- Thai Lawyers for Human Rights (TLHR)
- Thai Extra-Territorial Obligations Working Group (Thai ETOs Watch)
- Thai Netizen Network
- Tineke Strik, Member of the European Parliament
- Tunisian Judges Association
- Faculty of Law, Thammasat University

## U

- Union of the Supreme Court Judicial Ethics Review Committee - Myanmar
- United Nations Action for Cooperation Against Trafficking in Persons (UN-ACT)
- Unions Alliance
- Universidad Católica Andrés Bello
- University of Passau (Germany)

- University of Zimbabwe
- UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
- UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
- UN Women
- UN Populations Fund (UNFPA)
- United Nations Support Mission in Libya
- VOICE (Vietnamese Overseas Initiative for Conscience Empowerment)
- Victims of the internal armed conflict in Colombia
- Vrinda Grover, Senior Advocate

## W

- World Health Organization (WHO)
- World Organization Against Torture

## Y

- Yasmine Chubin
- Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA)

## Z

- Zimbabwe Anti-Corruption Commission
- Zimbabwe Council for Legal Education
- Zimbabwe Council of Churches
- Zimbabwe Ezekiel Guti University
- Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights
- Zimbabwe Institute
- Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum

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- Me Sylvain Savolainen
- Mercy Corps
- Navixia SA
- OAK Foundation
- Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, OHCHR
- Open Society Foundations
- Pro Victimis Foundation
- Republic of Ireland, Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Trade
- Swiss Confederation, Republic and Canton of Geneva
- Swiss Confederation, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
- The Sigrid Rausing Trust
- Trocaire
- United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Foreign and Commonwealth Office
- United States of America, Department of State - Bureau of Democracy Human Rights and Labor
- UN women
- World Health Organization, WHO

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