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
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

STRATEGIC GOAL 1 → 14.4 %
Independence of Judges & Lawyers

STRATEGIC GOAL 2 → 39 %
Access to Justice for All

STRATEGIC GOAL 3 → 15.8 %
Accountability for human rights violations

STRATEGIC GOAL 4 → 6.9 %
Protection and effectiveness of int’l & regional human rights mechanisms

STRATEGIC GOAL 5 → 23.9 %
Domestic compliance & implementation of int’l and regional human rights law
FEEDBACK ON RELEVANCE, EFFECTIVENESS & POTENTIAL IMPACT

**Strongly agree**

**Agree / Partly Agree**

**Disagree**

**Strongly disagree**

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**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."

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**OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITIES BY PROGRAMME**

- Advising: 31
- Advocacy: 248
- Capacity Building: 19
- 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

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**DIVERSITY OF WORKING METHODS**

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

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**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

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

- **34%**

---

**HAD NEVER ENGAGED WITH THE ICJ BEFORE**

- **61%**

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

- **9,300** activities undertaken by the ICJ globally, regionally & in over 50 countries across the globe (+4.5% compared to 2018)

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

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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
- 19th World Congress of the ICJ and release of the Tunis Declaration on the Rule of Law
- 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
- Workshop of lawyers and victims on enforced disappearance and extrajudicial killings in Colombia
- 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
- Launch of new project on combating impunity for serious human rights violations in Colombia, Guatemala and Peru
- 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

‘Many times, ICJ’s voice resonates among judges whose lives, work, and career are threatened because of their perceived “independence” and “bravery” as members of the Bench.’
A female judge from the Philippines

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A significant development in 2019 was the convening of the 18th 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 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

Assistant
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.
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 9th 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.
Strategic Goal
2 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.
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 combating 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 2018 the ICJ jointly intervened before the European Court of Human Rights in the case Zhidanov 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 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.

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,’ said Akmal Burkhanov, Chairperson of the Nationwide Movement Yuksalish.

‘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

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 facing the issue of protecting 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 source book 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.

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

The Makana Municipality governs the town of Makhandha 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 Makhandha 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 Makhandha 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 for judicial independence and accountability against dysfunctional municipalities and for people to demand good governance and access to basic services through court processes.
Strategic Goal
3 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.
The ICJ has developed strong relationships with justice actors. The revised Minnesota Protocol was launched in 2017, following 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 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 combating 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 onextrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions who led the revision of the Protocol, Christof Heyns.

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 (TDC) and the Specialized Criminal Chambers (SCC). The TDC 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 TDC’s final recommendations undermines their operation, and the right of victims to judicial remedies.

In 2018 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 TDC’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 Chamber.

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.

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 conducted similar trainings in Guatemala, Tunisia, Myanmar, and 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 combating 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.

A Lawyer from Tunis

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.‘

Development and Implementation of the Minnesota Protocol through the ICJ’s Global Redress and Accountability Initiative

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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 and 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.’

Kingdom of the Netherlands. ICJ Venice Workshop on the Rule of Law and International Justice: Accountability for Human Rights Violations in Myanmar. December 2019. "The ICJ hopes to help Myanmar hear and understand the voices of victims, and help them to come together with their lawyers to understand their rights and send them on their way to seek justice and reparations." 1

In early 2019, the ICJ met with the Rohingya refugee community in Cox’s Bazar, 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 committed by the Myanmar army. After a series of meetings, a research team was created to help draft a legal framework for accountability for the Rohingya from Myanmar to Bangladesh, attracting nearly 150 civil society organizations to the project. In December 2019, the ICJ held an event at the 42nd session of the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) to establish a Commission of Inquiry (COI) to investigate extrajudicial executions, enforced disappearances, arbitrary detentions and torture.

The ICJ has been working to bring Myanmar’s laws in line with its international human rights obligations and 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.

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 (JEP) (known as the JEP by its acronym in Spanish), is a judicial tribunal created by an amendment to the Colombian constitution in 2017. To this, 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 2016, 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 was published in June 2019 and highlights the need for further work to ensure the JEP’s independence and impartiality. The report also discusses the importance of guaranteeing the JEP’s judicial independence to ensure the proper exercise of its functions, and recommends that 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. The JEP presented its report in June 2019 to the special 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 sustainably 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 42nd session. Due to the joint advocacy, during its 43rd session the UNHRC approved a resolution creating the Interim Fact-Finding Mission (IFFM) to investigate extrajudicial executions, enforced disappearances, arbitrary detentions and torture.

The ICJ has been working to bring Venezuela’s laws in line with its international human rights obligations and 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.

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.
Strategic Goal

4 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.
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 19th 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 OEIWG 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.
Strategic Goal
5 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.
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.
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 60th 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 ‘Combatting Impunity Together, everywhere’.

Media & Communication
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

218,957

VISITORS
(106% INCREASE COMPARED TO 2018)

INCREASED TRAFFIC TO ICJ WEBSITE

296,180

VISITS
(84% INCREASE COMPARED TO 2018)

0.95%

AVERAGE ENGAGEMENT RATE

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
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 2018, 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 Statement of Income for the Year Ended December 31, 2019
with comparative figures for 2018
in Swiss francs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INCOME</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contributions for projects</td>
<td>8'767'785</td>
<td>12'782'529</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overheads from projects</td>
<td>800'509</td>
<td>513'256</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions for the Commission</td>
<td>1'183'803</td>
<td>1'918'206</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other income</td>
<td>27'748</td>
<td>10'987</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL INCOME</strong></td>
<td><strong>10'604'346</strong></td>
<td><strong>14'700'733</strong></td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OPERATING EXPENDITURE</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Staff</td>
<td>-5'640'839</td>
<td>-4'949'476</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meeting &amp; travel costs</td>
<td>-2'942'578</td>
<td>-3'238'089</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consultancy fees</td>
<td>-2'854'856</td>
<td>-2'194'377</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publication and promotion costs</td>
<td>-47'491</td>
<td>-63'316</td>
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<tr>
<td>Communication costs</td>
<td>-151'831</td>
<td>-69'507</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office premises</td>
<td>-831'098</td>
<td>-661'513</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other administrative expenditures</td>
<td>-336'448</td>
<td>-118'507</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURE</strong></td>
<td><strong>-12'805'142</strong></td>
<td><strong>-11'294'785</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**OPERATING RESULT**                        | **-2'200'796** | **3'405'948** |

## Combined Balance Sheet for the Year Ended December 31, 2019
with comparative figures for 2018
in Swiss francs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSETS</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current assets</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash &amp; cash equivalents</td>
<td>5'849'746</td>
<td>16'999'353</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants receivable (short term)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provision on grants</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other current assets</td>
<td>92'692</td>
<td>9'401'518</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total current assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>5'849'746</strong></td>
<td><strong>16'999'353</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-current assets</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants receivable (long term)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tangible and intangible assets</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Financial assets</td>
<td>64'082</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total non-current assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>64'082</strong></td>
<td><strong>9'401'518</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL ASSETS</strong></td>
<td><strong>5'849'746</strong></td>
<td><strong>16'999'353</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LIABILITIES &amp; FUNDS</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Short-term liabilities</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Operating liabilities</td>
<td>849'725</td>
<td>792'989</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accrued liabilities</td>
<td>988'838</td>
<td>410'311</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contributions received in advance</td>
<td></td>
<td>1'242'088</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total current liabilities</strong></td>
<td><strong>1'444'360</strong></td>
<td><strong>2'445'696</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Restricted funds</td>
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<tr>
<td>Funds restricted to projects</td>
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<td>14'390'197</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total restricted funds</strong></td>
<td><strong>4'781'079</strong></td>
<td><strong>14'390'197</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital of the organization</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>General reserves</td>
<td>164'064</td>
<td>907</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income / (loss) for the year</td>
<td>-513'256</td>
<td>163'157</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign currency translation reserve</td>
<td>-2'052</td>
<td>808</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total capital of the organization</strong></td>
<td>-375'693</td>
<td>163'157</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL LIABILITIES & FUNDS**               | **5'849'746** | **16'999'353** |
Donor Acknowledgements

- Anonymous Donors
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- DanChurchAid
- European Commission
- Familie Claude Krähenbühl
- Federal Republic of Germany, Embassy in Guatemala
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