

# **IIDH**

Instituto Interamericano  
de Derechos Humanos

IIHR in the Americas

Bi-monthly newsletter of the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights.

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- **Follow our activities on Facebook.**

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## [Specialized course on the inter-American system of human rights concluded](#)

**San José, Costa Rica.** The “Seventh Specialized Course for Public Officials on the Use of the Inter-American System for the Protection of Human Rights” was held January 29 to February 4. The activity was organized jointly by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the IIHR.

The program included lectures, group projects, a moot court on domestic jurisdiction and attendance at a hearing of the Inter-American Court on the *Cruz Sánchez vs. Peru* case. The lecturers, who were members of the Commission and judges of the Court, IIHR and UN officials and civil society members, touched on a wide range of issues relating to compliance of the international human rights obligations of States.

The Course, held during the 102nd Regular Session of the Inter-American Court, was attended by more than sixty officials of Foreign Ministries, specialized human rights offices, justice operators, university professors and members of civil society from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Honduras, Mexico, Peru, Paraguay and Germany.

[Program](#)

[Gallery of photographs](#)

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## [Mission of UNIORE and Protocol of Tikal observe the general elections in Costa Rica](#)

**San José, Costa Rica.** On February 2, Costa Rica held presidential and legislative (all 57 deputies) elections, which were observed by an international mission at the invitation of the Supreme Tribunal of Elections. The mission of the Association of Electoral Bodies of Central America and the Caribbean (Protocol of Tikal) and the Inter-American Union of Electoral Bodies (UNIORE), organized in coordination with the Executive Secretariat of those bodies (IIHR/CAPEL), was comprised of members and staff of electoral tribunals of Brazil, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Puerto Rico and St. Lucia.

During the academic portion of the mission, on January 31 in the Inter-American Classroom of the IIHR the general context of the electoral process, the status of the political parties and their candidates and the campaign from the perspective of the mass media (see the note in the previous bulletin here) were explained to the visitors.

On election day the members visited polling places throughout the country to observe the process from its beginning until the closing of the polling places and the counting of the ballots. As no candidate received more than 40% of the total valid ballots cast, the Supreme Tribunal convoked a second round that will be held April 6.

This particular election was marked by the vote outside of the country for the first time, with 61 polling places in 52 consulates in 42 countries, and by the implementation of parity and alternation. This principle, established in the Electoral Code, implies that the political parties must present their lists of candidates to the Legislative Assembly with a 50/50 ratio of representation by gender and the candidates on each list must be alternated by gender.

Visit the [Electoral Network](#)

[Gallery of photographs](#)

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## Mission of UNIORE in the presidential election of El Salvador

**San Salvador, El Salvador.** On February 2, a presidential election was held in which the Supreme Electoral Tribunal (TSE) convoked 4,955,107 eligible voters, who were distributed in 1593 voting centers. At the invitation of the TSE, the mission comprised of judges and staff of the electoral bodies of Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Puerto Rico, St. Lucia, Uruguay and Venezuela with IIHR/CAPEL, as the Executive Secretariat of the Inter-American Union of Electoral Bodies, observed the election.

The mission carried out a program of four days that included receiving information from specialists on the context of the election, the vote within and outside the country, the transmittal of the results in addition to a socio-political analysis of the vote. On election day, the members of the mission observed the opening of the polling places and the development of the process by visiting locales throughout the country. As no candidate received an absolute majority of valid votes (half plus one), the TSE convoked a second round to be held March 9.

This election saw the implementation of a new Electoral Code, a new law on political parties, voting outside the country and, especially, the putting into practice of the in-country vote throughout El Salvador.

Visit the [Electoral Network](#)  
[Gallery of photographs](#)

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## Presentation of the project on procedural rights regarding human rights

**San José, Costa Rica.** On February 4, at the conclusion of the “Seventh Specialized Course for Public Officials on the Use of the Inter-American System for the Protection of Human Rights,” the “Collection on Procedural Rights regarding Human Rights,” an initiative of the Centro de Estudios de Actualización en Derecho (CEAD) and the IIHR, was presented.

At the event, which was held in the Inter-American Classroom of Human Rights, the first three volumes of the Collection were presented: “Fundamental rights, constitutional bloc of rights, interjurisdictional dialogue and conventionality control” by the Chilean professor Humberto Nogueira Alcalá; “Neoconstitutionalism, principles and considerations” by the Spanish professor Luis Prieto Sanchis and “Human rights in Mexico. Towards a new model” by the Mexican professor Miguel Carbonell. The Collection was introduced by the IIHR Executive Director, José Thompson, together with the coordinators Rogelio Flores, Director of CEAD, and Fabiola Martínez.

More information regarding CEAD at <https://www.facebook.com/ceadmex/info>

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## Working visit of the IIHR expert on security

**Montevideo, Uruguay.** Marcelo Koyra (Argentina), expert on security and human rights, visited Montevideo from February 4-7 where he was engaged in a broad program regarding the activities and projects of the IIHR Office for South America, which is

coordinated by Soledad García Muñoz. The program included a meeting on the first day on the "Proyecto Educación en Derechos Humanos, Convivencia y Primera Infancia." In addition to the representatives of the Solis Theatre, host of the meeting, and the staff and consultants of the IIHR Office, the meeting was attended by delegates of the National Institution of Human Rights. The following day, there was a virtual meeting with Soledad Piñero Misa, founder and high authority of the Swedish organization Reloy, a potential ally in the execution of this project.

On February 6, the IIHR delegation met with Gabriela González, staff member of the program "Uruguay Crece Contigo," in the Office of the President of Uruguay. The following day, the Coordinator and Mr. Koyra met first with Javier Miranda, Director of Human Rights of the Ministry of Education and Culture and then with Fernando Willat, in charge of the matters of education in human rights. The second meeting was with María de los Dolores Aguilar Marmolejo, General Director of the Inter-American Children's Institute (IIN), and Marco Antonio Moysén Zúñiga, Coordinator of the project IIN-ACDI, with whom joint activities with regard to several initiatives were discussed.

More information at <http://retoy.se/> y <http://www.crececontigo.opp.gub.uy/>

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### [IIHR hosts the presentation of the report on the independence of justice operators](#)

**San José, Costa Rica.** February 5 saw the presentation in Costa Rica of the report on *Guarantees for the independence of justice operators. Towards strengthening access to justice and the rule of law in the Americas*, published by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR). The event, held in the Supreme Court of Justice, began with talks by Hina Jilani, former Special Representative of the UN Secretary General on Human Rights Defenders, and José de Jesús Orozco Henríquez, Chairman of the IACHR, who referred to the content of the report.

There followed a round-table moderated by Jorge Humberto Meza, IACHR staff member. Also participating were José Thompson, IIHR Executive Director, Fernando Cruz Castro, Judge of the Constitutional Court of Costa Rica; Marvin Carvajal Pérez, Director of the Judiciary School of Costa Rica; Ana Marcia Aguiluz, Director of CEJIL Mesoamérica and Adriana Orocú Chavarría, President of the Costa Rican Association of the Judicature. The event was closed by the President of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, Humberto Sierra Porto.

Read the IACHR report, [here](#)

[Programa](#)

[Galería de fotos](#)

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### [Visit of the representative of \*Stop the Wall\* to the IIHR Regional Office for South America](#)

**Montevideo, Uruguay.** A delegation of *Stop the Wall* visited the IIHR Regional Office for South America to report on its organization and the situation of the Palestinian people. On February 5, Jamal Juma and others were received by the IIHR representative, Soledad García Muñoz, together with Ambassador John Biehl and Florencia Fernández Mego, both of the OAS Office in Uruguay. In addition to relating his concerns and the activities

of his organization, Mr. Juma expressed his interest in establishing ties with regional organizations and institutions, such as the IIHR.

<http://www.stophewall.org/es>

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### Professor Claudio Grossman assumes the office of President of the IIHR

**San José, Costa Rica.** On February 6, in the Salón Dorado of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Costa Rica, Professor Claudio Grossman received the presidency of the IIHR General Assembly from Sonia Picado. The program included words of welcome from the host, Foreign Minister Enrique Castillo, and the IIHR Executive Director, José Thompson. Mrs. Picado spoke of the career of Professor Grossman and announced that she would continue to be linked to the Institute as Honorary President, together with Thomas Buergethal and Pedro Nikken, in accordance with a decision of the General Assembly. Professor Grossman stated his satisfaction with being part of the IIHR and his willingness to work with the Executive Director to promote and strengthen it.

The change in leadership was attended by national authorities, the diplomatic corps and representatives of international bodies.

Read more in the Internet, [here](#)

[Gallery of photographs](#)

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### Conversation on migrations and sexual diversity

**Tapachula, Chiapas, México.** On February 6 and 7, the International Organization for Migration and the IIHR Program “Human Rights of Women” sponsored a conversation on homophobia, transphobia and lesbophobia suffered by the LGBTI population who are migrants. These violences are manifested in social rejection or indifference, which becomes very serious when coming from public officials. Participating were delegations from the UNHCR, municipal officials, Una Voz Amiga, gay and transgender organizations and consular officials located in this border town.

For her part, the IIHR staff member in charge of the program, Rose Mary Madden Arias, referred to the many concerns of the IIHR regarding the human rights of the LGBTI population, among which she cited the lack of recognition of social violence, the absence of public policies, police harassment, the different discriminations in the workplace and the school, the strong religious prejudice and the legal exclusion of civil and family rights. In this context, she emphasized the importance of the advances in the inter-American system of protection and in the OAS as shown in the declarations on sexual orientation and gender identity, the judgment in the *Átala Riffo vs. Chile* case and the creation of the rapporteurship for LGBTI populations by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. She reminded, however, that they are not yet reflected in the countries of the hemisphere for which the IIHR has proposed to train, sensibilize and conscientize public officials as well as lesbians, transgender or gay persons so that they not only recur to the inter-American system of human rights but also that they learn to use a system that will guarantee the rights of persons who are discriminated against or are excluded. She made clear that the educational work of the IIHR is directed to make a reality of the hope of a

Latin America and a Caribbean that would discriminate less based on the progressivity of human rights.

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### [The IIHR advances in the preparation of diverse activities and projects in South America](#)

**Montevideo, Uruguay.** On February 7, the first meeting on the project “Promoción de Derechos y Convivencia Ciudadana” of education in human rights for the police took place. Representing the IIHR was the Coordinator of the IIHR Regional Office for South American, Soledad García Muñoz, and the consultant Marcelo Koyra, and for the Police, José Luis García Acuña and Ana Balbis. The IIHR delegation had previously met with the Director of the National Police School of Uruguay, Inspector María Cristina Domínguez Martínez with the purpose of developing joint initiatives with the School.

In addition, on February 10 Mrs. García met with Manuel de la Iglesia-Caruncho, Director of the Center for Spanish Cooperation and the General Coordinator of AECID in Uruguay. Thanks to the efforts of the IIHR Office, the support of AECID was added to that of other organizations for the holding of the Second Meeting of the Group of Experts on Indicators of the Exercise of the Human Rights of Women of the Inter-American Commission of Women of the OAS. The Second Meeting will be held February 24-27 in Montevideo.

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### [Visit of the German parliamentarian and diplomats](#)

**San José, Costa Rica.** On February 7, the Executive Director received the visit of Frank Schwabe, a Deputy of the Bundestag, who was accompanied by Ambassador Ernst Martens and a GIZ delegation comprised of Helen Ahrens and Inti Schubert, Director and advisor of the program Regional International Law and Access to Justice. Mr. Schwabe is a member of the Commission on Human Rights of the Federal Parliament of Germany.

During the meeting, the Executive Director referred to the creation and trajectory of the IIHR as well as its relationship with the German cooperation. He also described the areas of institutional work and the lines of action, among which he emphasized the dissemination of inter-American jurisprudence and its application to public policies that would guarantee that States comply with their human rights obligations. He added that the creation of doctrine is not only an academic exercise but also should be focussed on the construction of tools to transform the regional reality.

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### [Meeting to plan and provide follow-up to the Agreement of Association 1021 between UARIV and IIHR](#)

**Bogotá, Colombia.** On February 7, the first meeting of the teams of the Unit for the Attention and Integral Reparation of Victims (UARIV) and the IIHR was held to agree on a working plan for 2014 in order to execute the Agreement of Association 1021, which was signed by both institutions. The plan consists of four major components: training for the groups of victims at the local, regional and national levels; support for strengthening the victims of the armed conflict in their own process of integral reparation; participating in activities of dissemination of strategies, plans, programs and projects in the framework of an effective participation and design of a system of follow-up and monitoring that would permit them showing the results of all of the activities of the victims, both

organized and unorganized, according to the requirements of the law. Given the importance of fully complying with Law 1448 of 2011, the idea is to materialize the strategy in order to strengthen an effective participation of the victims in accordance with that law and its constitutional framework.

Present in the meeting were Gabriel Bustamante, Deputy Director of Participation in UARIV, and Juan Navarrete Monasterio, of the IIHR, with their respective academic and technical teams.

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### [Symposium "The Path towards the Right to Peace as a Human Right"](#)

**San José, Costa Rica.** On February 11, in the IIHR Inter-American Classroom of Human Rights, the symposium *The Path toward the Right to Peace as a Human Right* took place. It was moderated by Sonia Picado, Honorary President of the Institute. Also participating were Adilia Caravaca, President of the Liga Internacional de Mujeres Pro Paz y Libertad; Oscarlina Rodríguez, of the International Association of Doctors for the Prevention of Nuclear War; Carlos Villán Durán, President of the Spanish Association of the International Law of Human Rights (AEDIDH); Manuel Ventura, Judge of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and Nicolás Boeglin Naumovic, professor of public international law and a specialist on the environment.

The event was organized by the AEDIDH and the International Observatory of the Human Right to Peace (OIDHP), with the collaboration of the IIHR, LIMPAL/WILPF and other non-governmental organizations of Costa Rica. The participants adopted, by acclamation, the Declaration of San José regarding the human right to peace (San José III).

Read more on the Internet, [here](#)

[Declaration of San José regarding the right to peace](#) (in Spanish)

[Gallery of photographs](#)

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### [Mission of UNIORE met with the Minister of the Presidency](#)

**Panama City.** On February 11, an advance mission of the Inter-American Union of Electoral Bodies (UNIORE) that visited Panama met with Roberto Henríquez, Minister of the Presidency.

This mission, which included the IIHR Executive Director and the Director of CAPEL, José Thompson, was informed of the politico-electoral panorama and the technical, educational and training preparatives that were taking place with a view to the general election of May 4. The mission concluded on February 13.

Visit the [Electoral Network](#)

[Gallery of photographs](#)

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### [Meeting with the Development Bank for Latin America](#)

**Montevideo, Uruguay.** On February 13, the Coordinator of the IIHR Regional Office for South America, Soledad García Muñoz, and the consultant Marcelo Koyra, from La Plata, Argentina, participated in a virtual meeting with representatives of the Development Bank for Latin America (CAF) and with John Biehl, OAS Representative in Uruguay. The virtual hook-up also linked CAF staff in Caracas, CAF Director of Social Development,

Bernardo Requena, and Senior Advisor for Democracy, State and Security, Ana Sanjuán, and the Director of CAF in Uruguay, Gladis Genua, and Gianna Gregori in Montevideo. The IIHR team explained their work in Latin America, with an emphasis on South America and citizen security, and identified issues of common interest that might initiate future collaboration, which would probably include the OAS and the IADB.

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### [Workshop on the methodology of Education in Human Rights and the prevention of violence in schools](#)

**San Salvador, El Salvador.** A workshop held February 14-17 initiated the second phase of the cycle on the methodology of education in human rights and the prevention of violence in schools, which was coordinated by Byron Barillas with the support of Ivonne Vindas, of the IIHR, with the collaboration of Yeny Rivas Medrano, Coordinator of Education in Human Rights of the Office of Human Rights, Values and Citizenship of the Ministry of Education. Forty-five teachers and technicians of the Ministry attended the workshop, which saw the closing of the on-line course *Techniques and Resources of Education in Human Rights*.

The event, held under an agreement of cooperation between the IIHR and the Ministry, was part of a series of projects, methodological assistance and training plans in human rights and the prevention of violence in schools that through both classroom and virtual types have been held since 2009.

Read more on the Internet, [here](#)

[Gallery of photographs](#)

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### [Course on \*The Post-conflict Dynamics toward Peace\* set to begin](#)

**Bogotá, Colombia.** February 22 will mark the beginning of the course *The Post-conflict Dynamics toward Peace*, that will be given by the Universidad Libre, with the technical assistance of the IIHR, as part of the Gerardo Molina Chair. The purpose of the course is to “call the attention of the country, its citizens and active forces regarding the new national realities for a true construction of peace” in the context of the negotiations that began in October 2012.

The course, which will be held throughout 2014, is organized by the National Office of the Office of International Relations of the Universidad Libre with the academic support of the IIHR as part of the agreement between the two institutions.

Find the requirements and conditions [here](#)

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### [New course on human rights](#)

**Guanajuato, Guanajuato, México.** The IIHR and the University of Guanajuato extends an invitation to participate in Course on Human Rights that will take place from March 15 to May 24. It will also be possible to take the course virtually.

The Course will emphasize the actions of municipal and local authorities with respect to human rights bodies.

Address your questions on the requirements and conditions to [ddpg.educacioncontinua@gmail.com](mailto:ddpg.educacioncontinua@gmail.com)

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Invitation to participate in the Eleventh Edition of the Master's Program of the Universidad Nacional de La Plata

**La Plata, Argentina.** The IIHR extends an invitation to apply for the Eleventh Edition of the Master's Program in Human Rights of the Universidad Nacional de La Plata, Argentina (March 2014-December 2015). The program was established in 2004 as the first of its kind in Argentina and is organized by the Institute of Human Rights of the School of Juridical and Social Sciences of the Universidad Nacional. It is directed by Dr. Fabián Salvioli, member and former Vice President of the UN Human Rights Committee. It is a two-year program with nine required courses and four optional seminars (out of 15 possibilities). It has the academic and institutional support of the IIHR through the IIHR Chair on Education in Human Rights and the Center for Justice and International Law, which is responsible for the *Seminar on Inter-American Jurisprudence*.

More information at <http://www.derechoshumanos.unlp.edu.ar/es/maestria/>

To go directly pre-enrol electronically, click here.

[Convocation](#)

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*Information and Documentation Center*

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