

IIDH

Instituto Interamericano
de Derechos Humanos

IIHR in the Americas

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UNESCO and IIHR celebrate World Press Freedom Day

San José, Costa Rica. On May 5, UNESCO and IIHR celebrated World Press Freedom Day with a series of activities held in the Inter-American Human Rights Classroom. The IIHR Executive Director, José Thompson, in his opening remarks requested a moment of silence in memory of those who worked in the media who had been killed.

The participants, representatives of the press institutions and organizations of the region, then discussed the topics of the meeting, which included roundtables and workshops on matters such as communitarian media, training of reporters and security in Central America.

The inauguration was attended by Mette Gonggrijp, Ambassador of the Netherlands; Pilar Álvarez-Laso, Director of UNESCO for Central America and Mexico, and Juan Carlos Mendoza, future Ambassador of Costa Rica to the UN. The participants made a series of [recommendations for the panel on the media for the Agenda of Sustainable](#)

[Development in Central America.](#)

See a video with interviews of several participants regarding press freedom
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ne2VFDPddLw&feature=youtu.be>
[Gallery of photographs](#)

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

[IIHR/CAPEL join UNIORE in electoral observation](#)

Panama City. A mission of the Inter-American Union of Electoral Bodies (UNIORE) observed the general elections of May 4 in Panama. The mission was invited by the Panamanian Electoral Tribunal and was organized with the support of IIHR-CAPEL as Executive Secretariat of the electoral bodies of the hemisphere. It was comprised of Manuel Carrillo (INE, Mexico), Eugenio Chicas (TSE, El Salvador), Mariano Rodríguez (TSE, Dominican Republic), a delegate of the Supreme Electoral Tribunal of Costa Rica and José Thompson, IIHR Executive Director and Director of CAPEL. In addition to the on-site observation on voting day, followed by an evaluation and the presentation of preliminary observations, the mission's agenda included the presentation of the report on the UNIORE advance missions in February and April, interviews with the presidential candidates and a press conference on the mass media and their role in the electoral process.

[Gallery of photographs](#)

[Preparatory meetings for educational activities in human rights](#)

Guadalajara, Mexico. On April 10-11, the IIHR Coordinator of Education in Human Rights, Jorge Padilla, met with Julio García, Director of University Relations, and Martha Herrera, Academic Coordinator for Law of the Enrique Díaz de León University, in order to prepare training activities on human rights to be held this year and in 2015. Among the activities will be an interdisciplinary seminar with other universities of Jalisco and workshops on international law and the inter-American system.

He also visited Jorge Quevedo Flores, Director of International Relations of the Secretariat of Education of Jalisco, to discuss a cooperation agreement that would cover 2014 to 2016. Under such an agreement, the IIHR would provide technical assistance in this topic with a focus on the prevention of violence and education for transparency. In addition, the Inter-American Covenant on Education in Human Rights was presented to Carlos Alberto Martínez, Coordinator of Advisors of the Secretariat of Education, and Guillermo González Flores, Director of International Affairs of the State Government, with whom a discussion was held on a training strategy for the strengthening of institutional capacities designed with the help of the IIHR and a scenario for constructing an action plan utilizing the pedagogic resources of the IIHR was analyzed.

[Diploma course “Dynamics of the post-conflict – What is necessary for peace”](#)

Bogotá, Colombia. On May 3, the IIHR sponsored the visit of Florentín Meléndez, President of the Constitutional Chamber of El Salvador and former member of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, who lectured on “Dynamics of Post-conflict – What is necessary for peace.” Mr. Meléndez offered a series of

reflections on the topic “International Tribunals. Contributions of the International Jurisprudence in Human Rights, Transitional Justice, Peace and International Security.” The course, in which the IIHR collaborates, is part of the Gerardo Molina Chair of the Universidad Libre.

[New edition of AUSJAL-IIHR diploma courses](#)

Montevideo, Uruguay. May 5 saw the inauguration of the 2014 edition of the two diploma courses on human rights, which emphasize education in human rights and access to justice. This activity is part of the AUSJAL-IIHR Inter-University Program on Human Rights. Present at the inauguration were the Dean of the Law School, Carlos del Piazzo; the Coordinator of the IIHR Regional Office for South America, Soledad García Muñoz; the Coordinator of the program, Mariela Saettone, and Professor Alipio Nahui Ortiz.

More information on the diploma courses at
http://www.ucu.edu.uy/node/3569#.U2fq_1F5Ork

[IIHR promotes human rights in Uruguayan Armed Forces and Police](#)

Montevideo, Uruguay. On May 7, the Coordinator of the IIHR Regional Office, Soledad García Muñoz, met with José Luis García and Ana Balbis, of the Communitarian Police, to plan future activities of the project on security and human rights. The consultant Marcelo Koyra participated by Skype.

Later, on May 15, there was a meeting to discuss the joint project with the Uruguayan Armed Forces, such as the signing of the agreement IIHR-IMES and constructing a human rights course and manual. Attending this meeting were Chiara Oditti, consultant of the Network of Security and Defense of Latin America (RESDAL) and, for the IIHR, María Elena Martínez, member of its Steering Committee and consultant of the Regional Office; Ms. García Muñoz, and the intern Ferran Civil Bellmunt. In addition, a new cycle of meetings were planned to follow up on efforts for a closer collaboration among IIHR, IMES and ENOPU.

Photographs at <https://www.facebook.com/iidhsuramerica/posts/562912643825408>

[Diploma course “Public Policies and Human Rights”](#)

Barranquilla, Colombia. On May 7, Juan Navarrete, IIHR Representative in Colombia, lectured on the "Evaluating Development Plans from the Perspective of Human Rights," as part of the course “Public Policies and Human Rights” of the Office of the Ombudsman and the Corporación Universitaria Americana, which has the support of the Regional Office for the Caribbean of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.

The objective of the course is to train Ombudsman staff, representatives of higher education bodies and human rights activists of civil society to analyze and monitor public policies as well as compliance by State institutions applying normative, theoretical, technical and practical criteria that also have a focus on gender.

[Meetings with the Andean Parliament, the World Bank and the Polo Mercosur](#)

Foundation

Montevideo, Uruguay. On May 7, Soledad García Muñoz, Coordinator of the IIHR Regional Office for South America, was invited by the Peruvian Ambassador to Uruguay, Representative to ALADI and its current President, to a conversation with Alberto Adrianzen, a member of the Andean Parliament. Also participating in the event, titled “The Andean Parliament and the Challenges for South American Integration,” was the Secretary General of ALADI, Carlos Álvarez.

On May 12, Ms. García Muñoz participated in the World Bank panel on “Better Teachers for Latin America and Latin America: New Evidence on how to Better the Quality of Teaching and Student Learning,” where she related the work of the IIHR in the topic. The following day, Fernando Lema, President of the Polo Mercosur Foundation, under French patrimony, met with the IIHR Representative to show his interest in supporting the Regional Office in different activities proposed for this year for giving tools to teachers on the topics of memory and justice.

Photographs at <https://www.facebook.com/iidhsuramerica/posts/561253160658023>

Australia approves IIHR project on bullying in schools

San José, Costa Rica. On May 9, the chargé d'affaires of the Australian Embassy in Mexico, William Blomfield, visited IIHR headquarters to learn about the progress being made by the project against bullying in schools, which is supported by the Embassy’s program of direct help.

The IIHR team, comprised of Dina Rodríguez and Larissa Segura, took advantage of the visit to visit the Colegio Experimental Bilingüe of La Trinidad de Moravia, which is one of the schools where the project will be implemented, where they were received by its Director, Armando Chacón. The project consists in creating didactic and multimedia material for the prevention of bullying in Costa Rica. The materials, which will be distributed in different schools, will be useful for students in general and for those who have a hearing problem.

[Gallery of photographs](#)

IIHR President participates in panel on strengthening of international human rights treaties

Geneva, Switzerland. On May 9 at UN headquarters in Geneva, Professor Claudio Grossman, IIHR President, participated in a meeting on “The outcome of the treaty body strengthening process: Lessons learnt, implications and implementation.” His lecture, “Human Rights Treaty Bodies: where to from here?” was made as Chairman of the Committee against Torture and was part of a panel presided by Professor Andrew Clapham, of the Geneva Academy.

Progress in the “Art, Human Rights and Civic Well-Being” project

Montevideo, Uruguay. On May 9, by means of a presentation with puppets, the project of “Art, Human Rights and Civic Well-Being” was presented to inspectors and directors of schools of the eastern, western and central zones of Montevideo. In addition to the ANEP authorities, Belela Herrera, the teams of the Teatro Solís and the IIHR and Rossana Tocoli and Analía Brun of the Santander Bank, were

present. The project seeks to transmit human rights values to children between the ages of 5 and 8 in pre-primary and primary schools and would provide a specific topical center with a didactic goal. They would also share formative experiences of each school through a blog, which would include audiovisual materials and guides.

Four days prior, there was a meeting among the participating institutions and the Director General of the Council of Primary Education of Uruguay, Héctor Florit. Also present were the IIHR Representative, Soledad García Muñoz; Anna Pignataro of the Department of Education of the Teatro Solís; Mariana González, the Director of the National Institution of Human Rights and Ombudsman; and Martín Prats, Director of Human Rights of the National Administration of Public Education.

More information and photographs [here](#) and [here](#)

[Applications to the XXXII Interdisciplinary Course on Human Rights now being accepted](#)

San José, Costa Rica. The IIHR is accepting, until July 25, applications to the XXXII Interdisciplinary Course on Human Rights “Constructing the Road Map towards the Recognition and Valuation of Diversities. The Course will take place in San José, Costa Rica from October 13 to 24, 2014. Among the topics to be covered will be:

- from the rule of non-discrimination to the recognition of diversity;
- migrants and the enjoyment of human rights;
- the progressive construction of the rights of women;
- rights of disabled persons: from international norms to national practice;
- challenges for the enjoyment of political rights; and
- role of justice in the recognition of diversities.

Send any questions to: c.interdisciplinario@iidh.ed.cr

The application form is [here](#).

[Relaunching the IIHR Inter-American Virtual Classroom](#)

San José, Costa Rica. On May 14, the IIHR once again put at the service of the human rights community its Inter-American Virtual Classroom after up-dating its courses, its IT platform and a new graphic design.

The Classroom now offers five auto-didactic courses: The functions of the police and human rights; Political parties and elections; Resources to incorporate the human rights of women; General aspects on didactic techniques and resources for education in human rights and Practical, emblematic and jurisprudential questions regarding the Inter-American System of Human Rights.

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

Visit the Inter-American Virtual Classroom by clicking [here](#)

[IIHR participates in forum on control of conventionality](#)

Bogotá, Colombia. On May 15, the IIHR participated in the “Forum Control of Conventionality – Challenges in Colombia with respect to International Jurisdictions.” The event was organized by the Universidad Sergio Arboleda to reflect, from a

juridical perspective, on the problems related to the subjection of the Colombia to international jurisdictions.

Juan Navarrete, the IIHR Representative in Colombia participated in a panel on *Control of Conventionalidad: Jurisdictional Challenges, Sources of Law and Constitutionality*, together with Rogelio Flores, Director of the Centro de Estudios de Actualización en Derecho of Mexico. The panel was moderated by Luis Javier Moreno Ortiz, research professor of the university.

More information [here](#)
[Gallery of photographs](#)



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