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UNIORE mission observes presidential election in Columbia

Bogotá, Colombia. Columbia held an election on May 25 for the offices of President and Vice President. Accepting an invitation of the electoral bodies of that country, an observation mission was formed by the Inter-American Union of Electoral Bodies (UNIORE), comprised of members and staff of electoral bodies of Canada, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay and Peru, as well as representatives of IIHR/CAPEL as Executive Secretariat of UNIORE. The agenda included meetings with officials of the National Electoral Council (CNE) and the National Registry, as well as attending two panels of national and international experts who gave an integral vision of the national context.

On election day, the members of the mission attended the official act of the CNE and the Registry and observed the process from the opening of the polling places to the counting of ballots, dispersing throughout Bogotá. In its evaluation, the members remarked on the peacefulness of the process, the lack of participation and the lack of proper instructions in the polling places. The conclusions and technical recommendations will be given to the

electoral authorities in the following weeks.

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

[Gallery of photographs](#)

[Workshop on Education and Human Rights of Women](#)

San José, Costa Rica. A workshop on Education and Human Rights of Women was held on May 16 for law students of the Quetzaltenango branch of the Rafael Landívar University of Guatemala. The event, which was conducted by Jorge Padilla, Coordinator of Education, and Rose Mary Madden Arias, of the IIHR Human Rights of Women program, took up topics such as the reach of international conventions, State obligations and the different forms of discrimination in social settings and affecting university students due to stereotypes and prejudices that still prevail. They also analyzed the jurisprudence of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, especially the *Atala Riffo vs. Chile* and *Artavia et al. vs. Costa Rica* cases. There was also a question and answer period with the IIHR Executive Director, José Thompson.

[Gallery of photographs](#)

[International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Lesbophobia](#)

San José, Costa Rica. The flag of sexual diversity was raised at IIHR headquarters on May 17 in commemoration of the International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Lesbophobia. In addition, the Executive Director issued a press release in which, on the basis of the *Atala Riffo vs. Chile* case, the States were reminded that sexual orientation and gender identity were categories protected by the Convention and therefore that “any discriminatory norm, act or practice based on sexual orientation of the person is prohibited.”

In addition, the IIHR participated in a ceremony held at the Casa Presidencial, where the rainbow flag was raised. This event, held for the first time in the history of Costa Rica, was led by President Luis Guillermo Solís, Vice President Ana Elena Chacón and the Ombudsman, Ofelia Taitelbaum. The IIHR was represented by Rose Mary Madden Arias.

Read the press release, [here](#)

[Gallery of photographs](#)

[IIHR continues to support the diploma course on the post-conflict](#)

Bogotá, Colombia. On May 17, Roberto Garretón, a Chilean human rights activist and former regional representative of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, lectured on *The Truth Commission. International Cases (Truth and Reconciliation Commission–Cases on Chile, Argentina, South Africa, Morocco)*. He was followed on May 31 by Baltasar Garzón, former judge of the Audiencia Nacional of Spain, who spoke on *Transitional Justice. Myths and Realities*. The event was attended by university officials and by Juan Navarrete, IIHR representative in Columbia. Both activities were held as part of the diploma course *Post-conflict Dynamics – What is necessary for peace*, of the

Gerardo Molina Chair of the Universidad Libre and were sponsored by the IIHR as part of the agreement signed with that university.

[Workshop on education in human rights and promotion of civic values](#)

San José, Costa Rica. On May 21, the IIHR Area of Education held a workshop on education in human rights and the promotion of civic values for 30 International Baccalaureate students of the Colegio Británico of Costa Rica in order to train the teams that will participate in the model UN on May 24, which is being organized by different private schools in Costa Rica. Jorge Padilla was in charge of the activity and was assisted by Angel Avendaño.

[Gallery of photographs](#)

[IIHR participates in the “Marcha del Silencio”](#)

Montevideo, Uruguay. On May 20, as has been the case for the past 19 years, the Marcha del Silencio took place in the center of the Uruguayan capital in which the Mothers and Relatives of Uruguayan Detained-Disappeared, President Mujica, Senator Lucía Topolansky and Belela Herrera, together with hundreds of persons walked for truth, justice, memory and never again. The theme of this year was “Where are they? Why the silence?” Representing the IIHR were Soledad García Muñoz, Coordinator of its Regional Office, and Victoria Faroppa.

[UNA grants Elizabeth Odio degree of doctor *honoris causa*](#)

San José, Costa Rica. On May 21, the University Council of the Universidad Nacional of Costa Rica granted the degree of doctor *honoris causa* to Elizabeth Odio, a Costa Rican lawyer and member of the IIHR General Assembly. Ms. Odio received the highest distinction of the University for her outstanding work as a judge of the International Criminal Court, her contribution to human rights in Costa Rica and the world and her fight for full equality between men and women, among other merits.

The event took place in the Melico Salazar theatre and was attended by university officials and the President and Vice President of Costa Rica, Luis Guillermo Solís and Ana Elena Chacón, respectively, in addition to professors, students, governmental representatives, diplomatic corps, family and friends of Ms Odio and the general public.

Read the remarks of Elizabeth Odio Benito, [here](#)

[Louis Joinet honored](#)

Montevideo, Uruguay. On May 21, the IIHR was represented at the homage to the French judge, Louis Joinet, defender of human rights and the freedom of Uruguayans during the dictatorship. The Mayor of Montevideo, Ana Olivera, invited Mr. Joinet in order to confer upon him the distinction of “Illustrious Citizen of Montevideo.” Mr. Joinet gave a lecture, which was attended by the Coordinator of the IIHR Regional Office, Soledad García Muñoz, who was able to share with him the work of the Institute in the region.

Workshop on education and political participation

San José, Costa Rica. On May 23, a workshop was held on education and political participation with students of Southern Methodist University of Dallas, Texas. At the activity, Ricardo Valverde, expert in electoral matters, spoke to the students. Among the topics discussed were the experience of CAPEL since its beginnings in the strengthening of democracy in the Americas, the principal dilemmas of States to achieve full compliance with human rights, education for transparency, accountability and democracy within the political parties.

[Gallery of photographs](#)

IIHR trains teachers and students in education in human rights

La Plata, Argentina. From May 26 to June “Training in Education in Human Rights,” took place and was organized by the IIHR Area of Education in conjunction with the Human Rights Institute of the Law School of the Universidad Nacional of La Plata, Argentina.

The Director of the Institute, Fabián Salvioli, former Vice President of the UN Committee on Human Rights, and Ana María Rodino, IIHR consultant, were responsible for the activity. More than 200 persons participated, among them students, teachers and authorities of the Instituto Superior de Formación Docente y Técnica N° 9 of La Plata.

[Gallery of photographs](#)

More information at: <http://www.derechoshumanos.unlp.edu.ar/es/calendario/evento/capacitacion-en-educacion-en-derechos-humanos/>

Second IIHR-PDI international diploma course “Human Rights and Citizen Security with respect to the Police Function”

Santiago, Chile. The end of June will see the inauguration of the second edition of this diploma course, sponsored by the IIHR and the Investigative Police of Chile (PDI) in which, from the perspective of the functions of the police, emphasis will be placed on the topics of gender and human rights of women and the system of multiple response, a tool to prevent violence and crime that has been successful in various countries of the hemisphere.

The course will be coordinated by the IIHR Regional Office for South America and will feature Professor Juan Faroppa. Also participating will be Jorge Padilla IIHR Coordinator of Education in Human Rights, and Marcela Avilés, of the Department of Ethics and Human Rights of the School of Police Investigations of Chile. This edition, as the previous one, will have the important support of the Agency of International Cooperation of Chile and the Investigative Police of Chile. During two weeks the participants, belonging to the police forces of South and Central America will participate by means of distance learning but during the first half of November will attend in person.

IIHR now receiving applications for its Internship Program

San José, Costa Rica, Bogotá, Colombia and Montevideo, Uruguay. The IIHR

Internship Program for the period July-November 2014 offers university students and professionals the opportunity to learn about the promotion of human rights with respect to the different academic disciplines related to the work of the IIHR. The internships may be carried out in San José, Costa Rica, Bogotá, Colombia or Montevideo, Uruguay. Internships are available in the academic, operative and technical areas. Applications will be accepted until July 15.

Additional information on the Internship Program may be found [here](#). The application form may be found [here](#).



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