

# IIDH

Instituto Interamericano  
de Derechos Humanos

IIHR in the Americas

Bi-weekly bulletin of the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights

No. 257 – June 1-15, 2014

## Contents:

- **IIHR at OAS General Assembly.** *Asunción, Paraguay.*
- **UNIORE mission to second round of presidential election in Colombia.** *Bogotá, Colombia.*
- **IIHR renews its commitment to right of women to a life without violence.** **San José, Costa Rica.**
- **“Art and Civic Coexistence.”** *Montevideo, Uruguay.*
- **SWOT workshops with police forces of Central America.** *Guatemala City, San Salvador, El Salvador; Tegucigalpa, Honduras; Managua, Nicaragua and San José, Costa Rica.*
- **Conference on women.** *Montevideo, Uruguay.*
- **Meeting on national plan on education in human rights.** *Rocha, Uruguay.*
- **IIHR attends Third National Assembly of Human Rights of INDDHH.** *Florida, Uruguay.*
- **Human rights training for anti-drug agents.** *Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.*
- **Forum on 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Belém do Pará convention.** *San José, Costa Rica.*
- **Activities with Communitarian Police and Armed Forces of Uruguay.** *Montevideo, Uruguay.*
- **Commemoration of "National Day against Abuse, Mistreatment, Marginalization and Neglect of the Elderly."** *San José, Costa Rica.*
- **CAPEL participates in observation mission to general elections in Antigua and Barbuda.** *St John's, Antigua and Barbuda.*
- **New Master's degree program in human rights and control of conventionality.** *Asunción, Paraguay.*
- **Red Inciendando's Web site made more accessible.**
- **Applications now being accepted for Interdisciplinary Seminar on Human Rights for the Mercosur area.** *Rosario, Santa Fe, Argentina.*

\*\*\*\*\*I

## IIHR at OAS General Assembly

*Asunción, Paraguay.* Soledad García Muñoz and the staff of its Regional Office for South America represented the IIHR at the 44th OAS General Assembly, held June 3-5 in Asunción. On June 2, Ms. García was on a panel formed as part of the *Second Inter-American Conference on Human Rights and the Exchange of Good Practices in Economic and Social Rights*, organized by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR). Also on the panel were Emilio Álvarez Icaza, IACHR Executive Secretary, Commissioner Paulo Vannuchi, head of the recently created unit on those rights, and Commissioner Rosa M. Ortiz. The *Regional Platform for Access to Justice for Persons in Situations of Vulnerability*, a tool created by the IACHR to facilitate the

search for sources and aspects of access to justice for indigenous peoples and women, was presented at that time.

Ms. García also participated in the discussion of the OAS Working Group with regard to formulating indicators on State compliance with the obligations set forth in the Protocol of San Salvador.

On June 3, Ms. García attended the roundtable on “Violence against Women and Social Inclusion,” a parallel event to the Assembly that was organized by the Inter-American Commission of Women and UN Women and that was moderated by Line Bareiro, a member of the IIHR General Assembly. She also participated in the discussion on “Freedom of Expression, the Right of Association and Open Government in the Americas. Progress and Current Challenges,” sponsored by Seeds for Democracy and the Due Process of Law Foundation.

On June 7, a seminar on “The Inter-American System of Human Rights and the Control of Conventionality,” organized by the Regional Office together with the Supreme Court of Paraguay (CSJ) and the IACHR took place. Its goal was to provide information on the topic for some 120 judges and directors of administrative areas of the CSJ. Among the speakers were Emilio Álvarez, IACHR Executive Secretary; Nury Montiel, Director of Human Rights of the CSJ; Mario López and María Claudia Pulido of the IACHR and Ms. García.

[Gallery of photographs](#)

[More information on the OAS GA here](#)

[Seminario “Sistema Interamericano de Derechos Humanos y Control de Convencionalidad”](#)

\*\*\*\*\*

## **UNIORE mission to second round of presidential election in Colombia**

*Bogotá, Colombia.* Colombia held the second round on June 15 to elect a President and Vice President. For the election, the National Registry had authorized 32,975,158 citizens to exercise their right to vote at 10,425 polling places in Colombia and 217 outside the country. Responding to the invitation of the national electoral bodies, the observation mission was comprised of electoral authorities and staff of Chile, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru and Puerto Rico, as well as representatives of CAPEL as the UNIORE Executive Secretariat. The program included a meeting with authorities of the National Electoral Council (CNE) and the National Registry (RNEC) and attending a panel of local experts that gave the visitors an integral vision of the political context of the country and its electoral process. In addition to attending the official act of the electoral bodies, the members visited polling places in Bogotá where they observed the process from its opening to its close and the counting of votes.

In its evaluation, the members of the mission emphasized the importance of the debates prior to the election and praised the tranquility of the election, the most pacific in the history of the country. They also referred to the fact that, in spite of the difficult political context that prevailed during the campaign, the logistics were handled well and the dissemination of the preliminary results helped to calm the general public. The members did express their concern for the need of better signs at the polling places, as well as for the lack of poll watchers. Their conclusions and technical recommendations will be included in a report to be presented to the Colombian electoral authorities within a few weeks.

[Gallery of photographs](#)

\*\*\*\*\*

## **IIHR renews its commitment to right of women to a life without violence**

*San José, Costa Rica.* On June 6, the Supreme Tribunal of Elections (TSE) was the scene of the commemoration of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women, organized by the IIHR in conjunction with Costa Rican entities. The Vice President of Costa Rica, authorities of the Judicial Branch, public universities, the UN, the Office of the Ombudsman, the National Institute of Women and the IIHR renewed their commitment to eradicate violence against women. In his remarks, the IIHR Executive Director, José Thompson, referred to the paradigmatic change caused by this treaty in recognizing that violence is a violation of the human rights of women, and therefore the guarantee of the right to a life free of this scourge is a State obligation.

The commemoration included a panel on “Challenges at 20 years of Belém do Pará” that was moderated by the head of the IIHR human rights of women program, Rose Mary Madden. Also participating were Vice President Ana Helena Chacón; the Vice President of the TSE Eugenia Zamora; the Substitute Judge of the Supreme Court María Elena Gómez; the Coordinator of the area of violence of gender of INAMU Ana Hidalgo and the representative of the Red Feminista against Violence toward Women Sylvia Mesa.

Read more [here](#)

\*\*\*\*\*

### **“Art and Civic Coexistence”**

*Montevideo, Uruguay.* The “Art and Civic Coexistence” project held another meeting in the Teatro Solís on June 2. Ana Laura Piñeyro, in charge of Education in Human Rights in the IIHR Regional Office for South America and the interns Sonia Ampuero, of Sweden, and Alba Vesperinas, of Spain, also represented the IIHR.

Joining in the activity were the “Girasol Marionettes” of the Museo del Títere of Maldonado and “Pro-arte,” which promotes workshops and creates marionettes for the execution of the project that has shown notable progress.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **SWOT workshops with police forces of Central America**

*Guatemala City, San Salvador, El Salvador; Tegucigalpa, Honduras; Managua, Nicaragua and San José, Costa Rica.* From June 2 to 13 five SWOT workshops were held to produce input to enable the IIHR to draft protocols of police action with respect to populations in situations of vulnerability. The protocols, which will have an operational perspective, are to be used by the public security institutions of each country in an effort to strengthen the capabilities of police schools, academies and inspectorates to protect and guarantee human rights by utilizing police functions responsibly.

Participating in the workshop in Guatemala, held on June 2, were the heads of the operational police, staff of the Academy of the National Civil Police and the Office of Humans Rights of the Ministry of Government. On June 3 and 4, representatives of the four units of the Office of the Inspector General of the National Civil Police of El Salvador attended the workshop. In Honduras, the workshops took place on June 5 and 6 and were attended by the recently created Office of Human Rights of the National Preventive Police, the heads of the System of Police Education of the Secretariat of Security and the Office of the Inspector General of the Preventive Police. In Nicaragua, on June 9 and 10 the team worked with ranking officials of the Office of the Inspector General of the National Police. The cycle of workshops closed on June 12 with a

workshop with the General Dirección of the National Police School of Costa Rica. Heading the mission was Carlos Mendieta, of the IIHR program on Security and Human Rights, and the expert on security and justice, Víctor Rodríguez.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Conference on women**

*Montevideo, Uruguay.* From June 4 to 6, Ferrán Civil, Alba Vesperinas and Sonia Ampuero, interns of the IIHR Regional Office for South America, represented the IIHR at the “Conference on Women,” organized by Cotidiano Mujer. At the conference, held in the School of Social Sciences and the Office of the Mayor of Montevideo, experts spoke on various topics such as the diversity of gender and the perspective of feminism in their lectures and workshops.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Meeting on national plan on education in human rights**

*Rocha, Uruguay.* A regional meeting, with the academic and technical support of the IIHR, was held on June 6 with teachers and students of the Departments of Rocha, Maldonado, Treinta y Tres and Lavalleja as part of the drafting of a national plan on education in human rights.

Ana María Rodino, an IIHR consultant, spoke at the opening and close of the meeting and presented the conclusions of the working groups. The IIHR delegation was comprised of Ana Laura Piñeyro, in charge of the education in human rights program of the Regional Office, and Victoria Faroppa. The Institute gave the participants the “Tools for Education in Human Rights” and informed them of its work in education, particularly the “Art and Civic Coexistence” project that is being conducted by the Regional Office. These contributions were welcomed by the commission in charge of drafting the plan, the authorities of the National Administration of Public Education and the Office of Human Rights of the Presidency.

See photographs of the event [here](#) and [here](#).

\*\*\*\*\*

### **IIHR attends Third National Assembly on Human Rights of INDDHH**

*Florida, Uruguay.* On June 6, Alba Vesperinas, an intern of the Regional Office for South America, participated in the Third National Assembly on Human Rights of the National Institution of Human Rights (INDDHH). The activity was headed by the Executive Council of the Institution, comprised of Juan Raúl Ferreira, Mariana González, Juan Faroppa, Mirtha Guianze and Ariela Peralta. The many civil society organizations that attended were informed of the Strategic Framework of the IIDDDH for the period 2014-2016.

See photographs [here](#) and [here](#)

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Human rights training for anti-drug agents**

*Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.* June 7 saw the start of the specialized plan to train anti-drug agents in human rights, an academic activity organized jointly by the IIHR Coordination of Education in Human Rights and the National Office for the Control of Drugs of the Dominican Republic. The event was attended by 30 persons, among them, investigative agents, operations agents who exercise control on both land and on sea, members of the Academy to Train the National Police and the Department of Money Laundering, university students, prosecutors and a priest who works with the

Armed Forces.

The Plan will be carried out from June 18 to July 25 of this year in two steps, one virtual and the other that will be done in a series of complementary activities led by the IIHR team.

Read the full note [here](#) and visit the [gallery of photographs](#)

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Forum on 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Belém do Pará Convention**

*San José, Costa Rica.* The Auditorium of Social Sciences was the scene on June 9 of a forum on “The Twenty Years of Belém do Pará. Violence against Women. More than just Domestic Violence.” It was organized by the Center for Research on Women’s Studies of the University of Costa Rica. Rose Mary Madden, head of the IIHR Human Rights of Women program, represented the IIHR.

The forum, moderated by Silvia Mesa, researcher of CIEM, was addressed by Monserrat Sagot, Sub-Director of CIEM, and Ana Hidalgo, Coordinator of the area of Violence of Gender of the INAMU.

\*\*\*\*\*

Activities with Communitarian Police and Armed Forces of Uruguay

**Montevideo, Uruguay.** On June 9, progress was reviewed regarding the preparation of a “Manual on armed forces, human rights and peace-keeping operations,” which is being drafted by María Elena Martínez, member of the IIHR Steering Committee. Others participating were Soledad García Muñoz, the Regional Coordinator, Ferran Civil, IIHR intern, and Col. Pablo Panizza, of IMES, and Col. Carlos Frachelle, of ENOPU.

On June 12, the consultant Marcelo Koyra spoke on “The Prevention of Violence and Crime, Human Rights and the System of Multiple Response” to 40 officers of the Communitarian Police as part of the course of the National Police School. Mr. Koyra also spoke to officials of the Communitarian Police regarding the project on prevention and citizen security that is being developed by that entity. He was accompanied by Ana Laura Piñeyro, in charge of the Education in Human Rights project of the Regional Office. Finally, Mr. Koyra visited the Teatro Solís, accompanied by Soledad García Muñoz and Alba Vesperinas, where they were received by the Director, Daniela Bouret, and Anna Pignataro, head of Education.

See the photographs of the [Conferencia en la Escuela Nacional de Policía](#), la [reunión con la Policía Comunitaria](#) and the visit to the [Teatro Solís](#)

\*\*\*\*\*

Commemoration of "National Day against Abuse, Mistreatment, Marginalization and Neglect of the Elderly”

**San José, Costa Rica.** On June 13, the IIHR participated in the commemoration of the “National Day against Abuse, Mistreatment, Marginalization and Neglect of the Elderly,” organized by the Costa Rican Gerontological Association. At the activity, the IIHR presented an exposition of its publications and distributed information on its activities in addition to donating some pertinent publications.

[Gallery of photographs](#) and see more photographs [here](#)

\*\*\*\*\*

## **CAPEL participates in observation mission to general elections in Antigua and Barbuda**

*St John's, Antigua and Barbuda.* On June 12. CAPEL, as Executive Secretariat of the Inter-American Union of Electoral Bodies and the Protocol of Tikal and represented by Wendy Singh, a member of the IIHR General Assembly, participated for the first time in an observation mission to the general elections in Antigua and Barbuda. During the mission, Ms. Singh visited 10 polling places located in different areas and witnessed both the opening as well as the close of the voting.

According to statistics of the Electoral Commission, 47,628 persons were registered to vote and of them 46,628 picked up their ballots in the 17 constituencies, 48 electoral districts and 148 polling places. The number of valid ballots was 43,085.

[Gallery of photographs](#)

\*\*\*\*\*

## **New Master's degree program in human rights and control of conventionality**

**Asunción, Paraguay.** IIHR announces that applications are being received for the International Master's Degree Program in Human Rights with emphasis on Control of Conventionality, the classes of which will begin in August of this year. The program is open to those who work in the area of justice, both institutionally as well as for civil society, political parties and international bodies with a degree in law, international relations, political science or other degrees related to international law.

This new Master's program was drafted by the IIHR Regional Office, coordinated by Soledad García Muñoz, together with representatives of the Universidad de Columbia and the Supreme Court of Justice, both of Paraguay.

Further information may be found [here](#)

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Red Incidiendo's Web site made more accessible**

Red Incidiendo is an initiative that seeks to link the organizations that work with peoples in situations of poverty or their communities in Central America and Mexico. Its goal is to unite forces to encourage the exchange, systematization and dissemination of information about these peoples and the situations of risk, potential or current, that affect or may affect their human rights. One of the novelties of the Web page is the section on jurisprudence, which is classified into the four identified types of poverty and is thus the first search engine that allows exploring the rights associated with each of them. Visit it at [www.iidh.ed.cr/redincidiendo](http://www.iidh.ed.cr/redincidiendo)

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Applications now being accepted for Interdisciplinary Seminar on Human Rights for the Mercosur area**

*Rosario, Santa Fe, Argentina.* Applications are now being accepted for the Interdisciplinary Seminar on Human Rights for the Mercosur area that will be held August 5-9 in Rosario. The event is being organized by the IIHR, the Law School of the National University of Rosario and the Institute of Public Policies in Human Rights of Mercosur. The Interdisciplinary Seminar hopes to provide a space for reflection, training and dialogue on the most pertinent areas in human rights and contribute to the construction of a regional identity with respect to rights.

The seminar is open to persons from different sectors and disciplines of the Mercosur region, especially those involved in the promotion of the inter-American system of

human rights in universities, State dependencies (foreign and other ministries, the judiciary, prosecutors and offices of human rights) and civil society organizations. The period of inscription will close on July 20. Information may be found [here](#). The application form may be found [here](#)

\*\*\*\*\*



**Follow us on Facebook**

Instituto Interamericano de Derechos Humanos – Página Oficial  
<https://www.facebook.com/IIDHpaginaoficial>

Oficina Regional del IIDH en América del Sur  
<https://www.facebook.com/iidhsuramerica?fref=ts>

\*\*\*\*\*

*Information and Documentation Center*

*The information contained in this Newsletter may be used, provided the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights is credited as its source. All previous issues of IIHR in the Americas and the IIHR Newsletter are available in our digital archive, which may be accessed at the IIHR Web site (<http://www.iidh.ed.cr/>)*

© Inter-American Institute of Human Rights