



ANNUAL REPORT

2025

International Institute of Social Responsibility and Human Rights

Changing the present, caring for the future

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IN THE YEAR 2025

A very complex landscape has consolidated in Latin America, where pre-existing democratic challenges not only continued but evolved into more sophisticated tactics to limit civic space.

The erosion of institutions, the constant weakening of judicial guarantees, and the use of increasingly refined mechanisms to criminalize environmental and human rights defenders forced the international community and civil society to respond in unprecedented ways.

In light of this vulnerability across the region, the International Institute of Social Responsibility and Human Rights (IIRESODH) remained steadfast. Throughout the year, the organization turned concern into concrete action, focusing its resources on strengthening its core capacity: strategic international litigation.

■ Message from the President

Víctor Rodríguez — President of IIRESODH

During this year, our work before the mechanisms of the United Nations (UN) and the Inter-American System of the OAS increased significantly, reinforcing high-level legal defense through a comprehensive and intersectional approach.

Priority was given to the rigorous support of victims, the documentation of rights violations on the ground, the consolidation of strategic alliances, and the development of technology applied to human rights — including PIDA, a high-precision specialized artificial intelligence tool.

The organization maintained continuous training and promoted innovative narratives to communicate its message with greater impact and efficiency. The defense of democracy and human rights is treated as a dynamic commitment, one that adapts in the face of the co-optation of institutions and acts of corruption.

Víctor Rodríguez, President of IIRESODH, thanks the team, allied organizations, and defenders, and invites readers to review this report, which accounts for the past year's work and defines the path forward for the region.

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SECTION 01 — STRATEGIC LITIGATION AND INTERNATIONAL INCIDENCE

In an increasingly adverse regional context for the defense of human rights, this section covers five dimensions of our work during 2025: direct litigation in country-level cases across key jurisdictions — Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Spain, Guatemala, Mexico, and Panama; our technical contributions to the protection mechanisms of the Inter-American System (OAS) and the Universal System (UN), whose impact extends beyond individual cases; the missions we carried out at the global decision-making centers of Geneva and Brussels; the training of new generations of human rights defenders through our international certification program; and the first step toward integrating artificial intelligence into the defense of human rights, through PIDA.

■ Emblematic Cases by Country

Canada — When Persecution Crosses Borders, So Does Defense

The deterioration of judicial independence does not stop at borders: it reaches those fleeing in search of refuge and can be prolonged through international police cooperation.

- **Litigation before Interpol:** we activated Interpol's control mechanisms. In Canada, we are working on two fronts:
 - Canadian national of Russian origin: we requested that the Commission for the Control of Files (CCF) review a red notice issued on grounds of political persecution. The request is under analysis.
 - Mexican applicant: a preventive consultation was submitted to the CCF in the context of ongoing persecution. The Commission responded promptly, forwarding the information to the General Secretariat as a safeguard.
- **Protection for asylum seekers:** we prepared expert opinions documenting patterns of lawfare, judicial corruption, and institutional persecution in Mexico — including the impact of the 2024 judicial reform on the amparo trial, as well as arbitrary detentions, torture, and enforced disappearances in Mexican criminal practice. These opinions supported protection requests before Canadian authorities. In July 2025, two additional members of

a persecuted family obtained protection, bringing the total to four protected individuals connected to the same events.

Why does it matter? A wrongly used red notice can lead to arbitrary detention. Intervening in time is the difference between freedom and its deprivation.

Colombia

We work on two fronts to protect justice, human rights, and the country's environmental transition.

- **Defense of judicial independence:** we challenged Call (Convocatoria) 27 for the nomination of judges, representing 24 clients, on the grounds that it reflects a systemic pattern of lawfare and an anomalous selection process. We activated mechanisms before the UN Special Rapporteurs and pursued conventionality-control actions, denouncing the systematic use of preventive detention as a rule rather than an exception, contrary to international standards.
- **Companies, environment, and human rights:** we promoted a transition toward reduced single-use plastics that protects both the environment and the labor rights of workers in the sector. We submitted a request to the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, sent communications to the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights, and invoked Article 41 of the American Convention on Human Rights before the Inter-American System.
- **Contributions to international protection mechanisms:** we submitted a shadow report and delivered an oral statement before the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights regarding the situation of economic, social, cultural, and environmental rights in Colombia.

Costa Rica

In Costa Rica we act on two fronts: judicial independence, threatened by political pressure and lawfare in electoral contexts, and access to rights for persons with disabilities.

- **Justice operators:** we intervened before the Human Rights Committee (HRC) and the IACHR to denounce threats to judicial independence.
- **Persons with disabilities:** we promoted active litigation before the IACHR and the Special Rapporteurs in favor of the rights to health, education, and inclusive development, through the Andrea Jiménez Institute case, which benefits approximately 100 people.

Spain — Enforced Disappearance in Democracy

The Lasa–Zabala Case: we are pursuing the case before the Universal System to hold the Spanish State accountable for enforced disappearance and to press for the application of transitional and universal justice standards. We submitted a shadow report to the Human Rights Committee focused on disappearances and the democratic transition, sent communications to several Special Rapporteurs, and requested the application of transitional and universal justice. A letter of allegation was issued and a public communication was generated.

Guatemala

In Guatemala we act on two fronts: the defense of judicial independence against electoral and political tension, and the defense of indigenous peoples' rights before the UN.

- **Active monitoring of judicial independence:** we intervened before the UN Special Rapporteurs to denounce threats to judicial independence in a context of strong electoral and political tension, where pressure on justice operators increased during the electoral process and the struggle for control of institutions.
- **Rights of indigenous peoples before the UN:** we submitted a shadow report to the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) on Guatemala, warning of

violations affecting the lands and territories of indigenous peoples, the criminalization of human rights defenders and indigenous authorities, and their exclusion from political participation, communication, and bilingual intercultural education. We keep the issue active before the relevant international mechanisms so the international community remains informed and continues demanding accountability from the state. On December 23, 2025, the CERD Committee issued its Concluding Observations, validating our complaints and recommending, among other measures, a moratorium on forced evictions and an end to the use of charges such as "usurpation" to criminalize indigenous communities.

Mexico

Since 2018 we have defended judicial independence in Mexico. Today we represent approximately 1,000 officials of the Federal Judiciary (PJF) — judges, magistrates, and court clerks. In 2025, in response to the judicial reform, we intensified this defense before the Inter-American System and the Universal System.

- **Inter-American System (IACHR):** a joint individual petition was submitted in August on behalf of 415 PJF judges. An extension was submitted on November 11 on behalf of 66 PJF judges and 3 judges from Chihuahua and Coahuila. Both submissions were admitted for processing and notified to the Mexican State, which has a non-extendable period of four months to respond regarding alleged violations of economic, social, and cultural rights. In November, following the use of excessive public force against a peaceful demonstration by retired judges, we also requested precautionary measures.
- **Universal System (UN and ILO):** a communication to the Human Rights Committee (UN) was presented in May on behalf of 400 PJF judges and magistrates. A joint communication submitted in August on behalf of 106 PJF secretaries and officials was admitted and notified to the State within one week. In both cases we requested that the Mexican State adopt protective measures for the petitioners against the risk of reprisals, and we requested the intervention of the Special Rapporteur on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers, who sent letters of allegation with specific recommendations to the Mexican State.
- **Cross-cutting work:** we also contributed to the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, documenting digital violence directed at justice operators in Mexico, and presented a general complaint — still in process — before the ILO Committee on

Freedom of Association, which found that the National Association of Circuit Magistrates and District Judges of the PJF is engaged in legitimate labor advocacy.

Panama

We defend the labor and union rights of workers, including indigenous peoples, before international organizations. In Panama, labor rights and freedom of association face restrictions that particularly affect organized workers, including indigenous workers; protecting union activity has become a key front for ensuring the exercise of these rights.

- **Whom do we represent — labor and trade union rights:** we carry out representation and strategic litigation on behalf of trade union groups that include indigenous workers, through the organizations SUNTRACS (National Single Union of Construction and Similar Industry Workers) and SITRAIBANA (Union of Workers in the Banana Industry).
- **Academic contributions and development of standards:** beyond country-specific cases, we contribute to the development of international human rights standards by presenting technical input to the main bodies and working groups of the Universal and Inter-American Systems, so that the decisions and observations guiding states incorporate a robust protection approach.

■ Contributions to International Protection Mechanisms

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and Inter-American System, so that the decisions and observations guiding states incorporate a robust protection approach.

- **Democracy:** we submitted an amicus curiae in the context of Advisory Opinion request OC-33, on "Democracy and its protection under the Inter-American System of Human Rights," presented by Guatemala to the Inter-American Court of Human Rights.
- **Freedom of association:** we contributed to General Comment No. 38 of the Human Rights Committee on Article 22 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (freedom of association).
- **Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC):** we contributed to the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights regarding the free, prior, and informed consent of indigenous peoples, as well as on agribusiness and food security.
- **Thematic studies:** we developed contributions on human security, disinformation, and universal criminal jurisdiction.

■ Missions — Presence in Global Decision-Making Centers

Beyond country-by-country litigation and our contributions to international standards, in 2025 we maintained a physical and technical presence in the spaces where decisions are made. Being there allowed us to update cases, present evidence, and hold high-level meetings that accelerate responses for victims. We brought that presence to two key centers: Geneva and Brussels.

- **Mission Brussels (March 2025):** we held high-level meetings with the Subcommittee on Human Rights of the European Parliament and with the Division for Mexico and Central America of the European External Action Service (EEAS), expanding our engagement toward less commonly used protection systems.
- **Mission Geneva (March and October 2025):** we directly updated mandate holders on pending cases and presented individual cases before Special Procedures, the Petitions Section of the treaty-body Committees, and other mechanisms. On March 25, at a parallel event of the Human Rights Council, we presented our work on technology and judicial elections in Mexico and Guatemala, denouncing the manipulation of the processes for electing judicial officials in Mexico and presenting the results of the judicial electoral observatory formed by civil society organizations. We also presented a study on human security to diplomatic delegations and civil society organizations.

■ Training in Human Rights

8th Edition of the International Certification in Strategic Litigation in Human Rights "Christophe Swinarski"

Between August 22 and September 5, 2025, we took participants from across the region on a physical tour of the venues of the main human rights protection mechanisms — Geneva, Strasbourg, Nuremberg, and The Hague — combining high-level academic sessions with institutional visits and sites of historical memory. This experiential, comparative approach goes beyond traditional theoretical teaching: international human rights law is learned in the places where it is built and applied.

Highlighted figures: 13 days, 4 countries, 9 cities, and 32 participants from Mexico, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Colombia, and Argentina.

A deliberately heterogeneous group: legal professionals from the public and private sectors, communications professionals, academics, and indigenous human rights defenders. As part of our alliance with CED-HAPI A.C., we fully funded the participation of the winner of the state award "Josefa Sánchez García" for community defenders in Oaxaca.

We also received talks from sitting judges of major international courts: Ivana Jelić (European Court of Human Rights, Montenegro), Sarah Cleveland and Juan Manuel Gómez Robledo (International Court of Justice), as well as officials of the International Criminal Court and Ambassador Arnoldo Brenes Castro (Costa Rica's Ambassador to the Netherlands).

Places Visited

- United Nations Palace (Geneva)
- International Court of Justice (The Hague)
- International Criminal Court (The Hague)
- European Court of Human Rights (Strasbourg)
- Nuremberg Trials courtroom (Room 600)
- Dachau Concentration Camp
- Nazi Documentation Center (Munich)
- International Red Cross Museum (Geneva)

■ AI Applied to the Defense of Human Rights — PIDA

Digital transformation and augmented intelligence for the defense of human rights: a decade of strategic litigation and high-level training has been translated into technology. On December 10, 2025 — Human Rights Day — we launched PIDA, IIRESODH's Advanced Research and Defense Platform.

PIDA does not replace the defender's judgment; it enhances it. It functions as an "anchor" of validated legal knowledge that supports each analysis with authoritative human rights sources.

Three Specialized Engines

1. **Expert Chat on Human Rights** — a grounded consultant that responds with a validated legal basis.
2. **Document Analyzer** — a procedural strategist that supports the analysis of case files and documents.
3. **Behavior Prequalifier** — an immediate diagnostic tool that guides the initial assessment of a case.

Access PIDA: <https://pida-ai.com/>

SECTION 02 — INTERVENTION IN THE TERRITORY

If international litigation brings cases before global bodies, intervention in the territory builds rights from the ground up. In 2025, we accompanied vulnerable working populations, strengthened civil society organizations, monitored electoral processes, and developed new narratives for the defense of human rights. These actions were carried out in Argentina, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, and Mexico.

Argentina — Popular Culture Also Defends Rights

We were selected from among 10 organizations worldwide to participate in an international initiative studying how civil society uses narrative approaches to promote democracy, security, and social justice in the face of authoritarianism in the "information age."

- **What did we do?** in partnership with the agency Marcas — which has worked on campaigns for Amnesty International, UNHCR, and feminist advocacy groups — we developed the case study "The Eternaut Effect: digital narratives, memory, and collective identity in the era of extreme individualism," using a mixed methodology (qualitative analysis and social listening) to examine the social impact of the series "El Eternauta" in Argentina.
- **Highlighted finding:** we documented how the Abuelas de Plaza de Mayo leveraged the organic conversation generated by the series to launch a campaign that catalyzed collective-memory actions regarding people who disappeared during the Argentine dictatorship — evidence that human rights causes gain legitimacy when woven into entertainment as subplots, without resorting to direct political confrontation.
- We developed a narrative toolkit for social organizations, including practical recommendations for replicating this strategy, a mapping of narrative tensions, and guidelines on digital distribution and the use of generative AI.
- **Partners and co-authors of the case study:** donors and strategic allies IRIS and Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors.

Colombia — Judicial Representation and Psychosocial Support

A recent escalation of armed conflict in Putumayo, Huila, and Caquetá has heightened victims' fear of engaging with the JEP (Special Jurisdiction for Peace) process due to concerns about reprisals. In response, we have continued to represent and support victims since 2020 before the JEP, with a team of 12 lawyers and 7 psychosocial professionals who have established themselves as leaders in the common representation of victims compared with other organizations. We continue to pursue truth, acknowledgment of facts, and the recovery of missing persons.

- **Beneficiaries:** more than 3,100 victims of the armed conflict recognized by the JEP, including indigenous and Afro-Colombian communities, peasants, small entrepreneurs,

members of the public security forces, women and LGBTIQ+ collectives, trade unionists, community action boards, social leaders, and human rights defenders.

- **Judicial representation:** we represent 980 victims in Macrocase 01 (Caribbean and Magdalena Medio Blocks) and 2,120 victims in Macrocase 10 (Eastern and Southern Blocks and Central Joint Command).
- **Psychosocial support:** more than 360 individual support sessions delivered to 216 of the 974 represented victims, under a "Do No Harm" approach, along with additional psycho-legal regional workshops in remote areas of the country.
- **Restorative projects:** we consolidated 17 restorative-project files before the JEP.

Dear San Jacinto

In historically marginalized rural areas of Colombia, limited opportunities and lack of access to technical education for young people facilitate micro-trafficking, substance use, and the risk of recruitment. In San Jacinto, Bolívar — a municipality historically affected by armed conflict, structural violence, and illicit economies — we support the implementation of the Municipal Development Plan, with a focus on human rights, a culture of peace, and the social prevention of violence, alongside Redprodepaz and Adagio.

- **Beneficiaries:** 650 people directly, spanning the peasant sector, vulnerable youth, culture and the arts, education, the environment, women, and LGBTIQ+ communities.
- **Preparation and diagnosis:** we coordinated with local government and carried out a prior public-policy analysis. In August, we held social-mapping sessions with more than 10 stakeholder sectors, identifying five thematic issues that led to four strategic priorities: governance and participation; civic education and culture; youth and the prevention of violence and drug use; and waste management.
- **Financed by:** the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Special Jurisdiction for Peace (JEP).

Costa Rica — Dignified Employment

Given the lack of awareness about labor and human rights, since January 2024 we have supported agricultural workers, domestic workers, transport workers, and private security personnel linked to the National Association of Public and Private Employees (ANEP), the Union of Agricultural Plantation Workers (SITRAP), and the Association of Domestic Workers

(ASTRADOMES), as well as migrants, asylum seekers, women, youth, and LGBTIQ+ individuals.

825

Vulnerable workers reached

389

People trained in 2025

• **What did we do?**

- Virtual course on human rights and labor (35 enrolled)
 - In-person course for security guards and bus drivers (135 people)
 - Training for domestic workers from 3 associations, plus 21 leaders trained in project formulation
 - Virtual Latin American Forum of Women Domestic Workers (49 participants connected)
 - A "face-to-face" outreach strategy on plantations in Sarapiquí and Siquirres
- **Salary equalization:** together with ASTRADOMES, we are advocating before Costa Rica's National Wage Council (CNS), a body of the Ministry of Labor and Social Security (MTSS), to equalize — by 2034 — the minimum wage of paid domestic workers with that of a "specialized worker." This effort continues in 2026.
- **Allies:** the Inter-institutional Roundtable on Paid Domestic Work, together with the National Institute for Women (INAMU), the MTSS, the Mixed Institute of Social Assistance (IMAS), the General Directorate of Migration, and the International Labour Organization (ILO) in Costa Rica.

Guatemala and Honduras

IIRESODH works in Guatemala and Honduras on two distinct fronts: the rights of workers in public spaces, and the institutional strengthening of the Guatemalan state.

Rights of Workers in Public Spaces

People working in markets and on the streets face structural violations — legal insecurity, confiscations without due process, criminalization, and exclusion from social protection. In Guatemala, 7 out of 10 workers lack formal labor protection; in Honduras the figure is 8 out of 10, and 62.4% of them live below the poverty line.

- We provided technical assistance to regional research led by WIEGO (Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing) and StreetNet International, visiting 11 markets and conducting 46 interviews with workers in San Pedro Sula and Guatemala City, along with legal analysis of the rights violations identified in both countries.
- The result was 2 policy briefs — with diagnosis, legal analysis, and more than 17 recommendations for public policy (clear permitting processes, an enabling regulatory approach, institutionalized dialogue, and social protection) — as well as advocacy before international organizations to share these findings. Potential reach: approximately 100,000 workers in Guatemala City and approximately 20,000 in San Pedro Sula.
- **Allies:** WIEGO, StreetNet International, and FENTRAVIG (Guatemala); FOTSSIEH (Honduras).

Strengthening Democracy and the Rule of Law

An initiative with a human rights focus aimed at strengthening the rule of law and civil society participation, carried out through agreements with Guatemalan state institutions:

- **Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare (MINTRAB):** a course on human rights and strategic litigation led by Drs. Rodríguez Rescia and Salvioli; collaboration on the Institutional Strategic Plan 2026–2036 and the INSPECT Program 2026–2027 (11 modules based on ILO standards); and digitization of the ministry's historical archive.
- **Ministry of Social Development (MIDES):** 49 consultancies covering institutional communication, support for territorial leaders, administrative reorganization, and budget analysis.
- **Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (MARN):** support in environmental negotiation and solid-waste management.
- **Vice-Ministry for the Development of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (Vice-MIPYME):** collaboration on the Public Policy on Innovation and the Technological Innovation Fund.
- **College of Lawyers and Notaries of Guatemala (CANG):** an academic agreement and a full scholarship (2 recipients) for the International Certification "Christophe Swinarski."

Mexico — Electoral Judicial Monitoring

On June 1, 2025, the judicial reform prohibited public and private funding as well as the use of traditional media in judicial campaigns, shifting them almost entirely to social media. This created a gap in oversight: without traditional controls, irregularities became difficult to detect. In response, we deployed a technology strategy based on OSINT (Open Source Intelligence) and digital citizen monitoring.

- **Building capacity:** we trained Mexican civil society organizations in OSINT, the X/Twitter API, the Meta Ad Library, OpenCorporates, TinEye, and digital security.
- **Monitoring the selection process:** we digitally tracked candidacies for the Supreme Court and the Judicial Discipline Tribunal using technological tools and language models (LLMs), identifying 394 candidacies with paid advertising amounting to tens of thousands of pesos, along with inauthentic accounts simulating citizen support.
- **Turning evidence into legal action:** this evidence supported requests submitted to the Technical Oversight Unit of the National Electoral Institute (INE) and included a conventionality-control analysis, which served as a technical basis for challenging the Supreme Court election on the grounds that it violated the prohibition on financing.
- **Digital monitoring (March 1 – June 2, 2025):** 394 clandestine paid-promotion accounts identified, forming the technical basis of the challenge to INE agreements INE/CG563/2025 and INE/CG564/2025.
- **Litigation and advocacy network:** the Judicial Electoral Observatory (Mexico), the Electoral Laboratory, the National Strategic Litigation Council, Diseñir, México Evalúa, and JUFED.

Observatory of the Universal System of Human Rights

Beyond electoral litigation, in 2025 we identified the need for an academic and civic space dedicated to monitoring UN bodies and mechanisms, which require continuous monitoring and ongoing technical analysis.

- **What are we creating?** a permanent monitoring observatory covering UN treaty bodies, rapporteurs, and working groups, together with forums, conferences, courses, and seminars for the national and international university community.
- We strengthened the bond between academia and civil society, enabling forums, applied research, training, and joint strategic litigation, and incorporated IIRESODH members into the Humanum Network.

- **Allies:** UNAM Acatlán (FES Acatlán), the Humanum Network, and Acosta García & Associates.
- *Naucalpan de Juárez, November 25, 2025: signing of the Declaration of the Humanum Strategic Alliance.*

SECTION 03 — OFFICES AND ALLIES

IIRESODH maintains physical offices in Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Mexico, and Switzerland, and carries out advocacy work and missions across a wider network of countries.

■ Consolidated Data for 2025

- Presence, advocacy, or missions in 11 countries
- 7 new cooperation and technical-assistance agreements signed
- More than 5,700 direct beneficiaries
- **With the support of:** the European Union, IRIS, WIEGO, UNDP, and Open Society Foundations.

■ Allies and Donors

- **Physical presence — 6 offices:** Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Mexico, Switzerland.
- **Advocacy (with cases and projects):** Argentina, Honduras, Spain.
- **Missions before international organizations:** Washington, D.C. (United States); Brussels (Belgium); Geneva (Switzerland).

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