



HUMAN RIGHTS IN MOVEMENT

A Journey Through the Challenges of 2024

IRESODH Annual Report 2024

Foreword

The year 2024 was marked by an increase in authoritarian discourse and actions by governments in Latin America, a crisis exacerbated particularly by the co-optation of state institutions and systematic attacks on judicial independence. This environment has transformed the defense and protection of human rights into a formidable challenge at both individual and collective levels.

Among the most critical situations requiring organized defense by civil society are the regression of collective rights and the instrumentalization of the criminal justice system to illegally and arbitrarily criminalize human rights defenders—particularly those safeguarding the land and the environment. These pressing issues motivated the **International Institute on Social Responsibility and Human Rights (IIRESODH)** to actively support key processes of reporting, democratic strengthening, and collective articulation in contexts of increasing vulnerability.

Five Contexts of Intervention

An overview of our strategic presence and actions across multiple regions.

Location	Axis Addressed	Applied Strategy
Costa Rica	Decent employment and unionization.	Training, international reporting, and union strengthening.
Colombia	Memory, justice, comprehensive reparation, and protection of environmental defenders.	Judicial representation, psychosocial support for conflict victims, and global protection network formation.
Guatemala & Honduras	Corruption perception, institutionalism, access to information, and digital security.	Citizen diagnostics, OSINT training, and defense of communities and journalists.
Washington D.C. & Geneva	International litigation and incidence.	Presentation of cases before the IACHR, UN, and Special Rapporteurs.
Europe Circuit (Geneva, Nuremberg,	Training in strategic litigation.	

Location	Axis Addressed	Applied Strategy
Strasbourg, The Hague)		Human Rights training at the UN, ICC, ICJ, and European Court of Human Rights.

Our Journey in 2024



Costa Rica

For Decent Employment

In the face of the disregard for labor human rights, we work toward the recognition and expansion of these rights in the most excluded sectors.

Dignified Employment Project: Expanding Rights from the Collective

In Costa Rica, more than 43% of employment is informal. These gaps disproportionately affect migrants, domestic workers, young people, and rural sectors. In response to this scenario, we implemented the "**Dignified Employment**" project, funded by the European Union, aimed at protecting and promoting the human and labor rights of vulnerable workers.

Who Do We Accompany?

- Agricultural plantation workers
- Paid domestic workers
- Bus drivers
- Private security personnel
- Displaced persons

Territorial Impact

- **3 complaints** accompanied to UN protection mechanisms.
- **5 participatory workshops** with social organizations/unions.
- **11 training sessions** for 339 workers, 20 public officials, and civil society leaders.
- Creation of **new union branches** (ASTRADOMES and ANEP).

+4,280

People reached by
communication
campaigns

139

Migrants directly
benefited

+800

People accessed
specific labor rights
info

** Actions made possible alongside the Interinstitutional Table of Paid Domestic Work (INAMU) and social organizations committed to labor rights.*

Colombia

Two vital milestones: The search for memory, historical reparation, and guarantees for victims of the armed conflict; and defending those who protect the land and the environment.

Milestone 1: Support for Victims

Colombia is undergoing an unprecedented transitional justice process, under a unique model with a restorative focus centered on truth, justice, collective reparation, and the reconstruction of the social fabric. We represent more than **2,500 victims** before the Special Jurisdiction for Peace (JEP), within macro-cases 01 and 10 (crimes against humanity and non-amnestiable offenses committed by the defunct FARC-EP).

Through our office in Colombia, we provide social and legal support to survivors of kidnapping, torture, and forced displacement; victims of sexual violence; recruited persons; and relatives of the deceased and missing. Thanks to this work, victims have begun receiving real responses from the State, activating reparation processes and ensuring their histories are recognized without exposing them to re-traumatization. (Supported by UNDP).

Milestone 2: Sharing Learnings & Global Protection

We participated in the **Meeting on Protection of Civic Actors at Risk in Latin America** (Bogotá, February 2024), visualizing patterns of state repression, judicial stigmatization, and digital attacks on territorial and environmental leaderships.

"Life Hangs by a Thread" Campaign

We co-created this Latin American campaign alongside 20+ organizations (including INSPYRE A.C., Marielle Franco Institute, Protection International, Karisma Foundation,

and CELAM) to raise awareness, protect, and dignify the work of defenders, demanding effective State guarantees for their lives, freedom, and dignity.

Guatemala & Honduras

Democracies Under Tension

In contexts marked by digital harassment, disinformation, and institutional silence, guaranteeing the right to information and disseminating public records becomes a critical form of defense.

OSINT & Defense

We trained more than 50 human rights defenders from Guatemala and Honduras in comprehensive (physical and digital) security and **Open-Source Intelligence (OSINT)** techniques. This empowers them to obtain and validate documentary evidence, detect early threats, and legally document human rights violations for international litigation.

Measuring Corruption

In Guatemala, institutional distrust is a systemic issue. We promoted a citizen diagnostic on corruption perception (2020-2024) alongside the Vance Center's "Anti-Corruption Assessment in Latin America." Guatemala scored **3.46 out of 10** (the third lowest in the continent). This data provides a critical roadmap for transparent public management for the incoming 2024-2028 government.

Washington D.C. & Geneva

Advocacy, Reporting, and Strategic Litigation. When local justice fails, we activate international defense mechanisms at the highest level to protect people, their communities, and the rule of law.

Six Emblematic Cases in 2024

Case Theme	Country	Organization / Body
1. Regressive Judicial Reform (Popular vote elections)	Mexico	IACHR
2. Andrea Jiménez Foundation (Rights of persons with disabilities)	Costa Rica	IACHR / UN Rapporteurships
3. Lawfare and Political Persecution	Costa Rica	IACHR / UN Human Rights Committee
4. Labor Rights (Abrupt transitions in the Plastic Sector)	Colombia	IACHR / UN Rapporteurships
5. Vulnerable Mining Communities	Colombia	UN Rapporteurships
6. Lawfare and Arbitrary Political Persecution	Panama	IACHR

Geneva, Nuremberg, Strasbourg, The Hague

6th European Circuit of Strategic Litigation

From October 13 to 24, 2024, we held the *Christophe Swinarski* edition of the European Circuit—a unique academic and experiential journey driven by IIRESODH. Twenty-five participants from diverse backgrounds (judges, lawyers, indigenous leaders, union members, academics) experienced firsthand the functioning of key international human rights organs:

- **Geneva:** UN Human Rights Council, Treaty Bodies, and Special Procedures (Palace of Nations).
- **Strasbourg:** European Court of Human Rights and the European Parliament.
- **The Hague:** International Court of Justice and the International Criminal Court.



Co-sponsored by the Human Rights Institute of the National University of La Plata (UNLP). A concrete commitment was established to create a fund for indigenous leaders to participate in future editions.

Our Impact in 2024

USD \$2,100,000+

Executed in Defense of Human Rights

This path was made possible thanks to the commitment of our donors, international agencies, and hundreds of individuals who trusted in our mission.

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Countries of Presence
(Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Switzerland)

3

Centers of International Incidence
(Washington D.C., Geneva, Brussels)

5

New Cooperation and Technical Assistance Agreements Signed

+2,000

Individuals in situations of special vulnerability directly benefited.

With the support of:

European Union | United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) | Open Society Foundations |

WIEGO | National University of La Plata (UNLP)
...and dozens of allied organizations and individual donors.

Thank You Very Much

IIRESODH

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