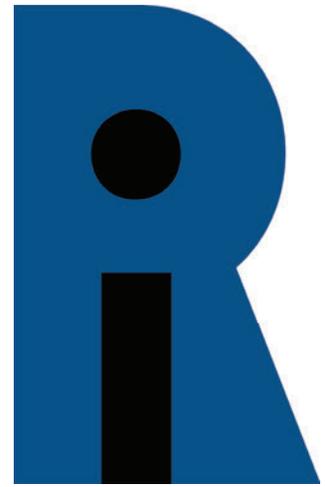


# ANNUAL REPORT 2016

LATIN AMERICAN NETWORK FOR GENOCIDE AND MASS ATROCITY PREVENTION

Prepared by the Technical Secretariat of the Latin American Network (the Auschwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation)



The Latin American Network for Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention was created in 2012 as an initiative led by the governments of Argentina and Brazil and is currently made up of representatives from State institutions of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela. It is a collaborative effort led by Latin American States that aims to build the regional and national foundations necessary for the prevention of genocide and mass atrocities. Additionally, it aims to empower Latin American States to become leaders in prevention on the international scene.

The initiative relies on the support of the Auschwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (AIPR), from the United Nations Office of the Special Adviser for the Prevention of Genocide (OSAPG), and the Stanley Foundation.

The Network serves as a mechanism for cooperation and communication between its members, who are increasingly advancing towards the establishment of a training plan for public officials in the region on atrocity prevention, the fulfillment of joint plans and projects, and the development of national initiatives that aim to introduce an atrocity prevention-centric approach in the public policy agenda of each country.

In terms of training, 2016 showed significant progress with the completion of the pilot phase of the Raphael Lemkin Seminar for the Latin American Network. This training tool, conceived and implemented for public officials from member states of the Network, successfully concluded its three initial editions, all of which were well received. Therefore, this initiative will continue working as the main training tool of the Network and its approach will continue to be applied to national training strategies for public officials.

Similarly, joint initiatives aimed at fostering education on prevention and the protection of vulnerable groups, as well as support for, and the dissemination of, policies on memory, truth and justice continued to be implemented throughout 2016.

We encourage you to familiarize yourself with the progress made by the Network through this report and to analyze the substantial and significant steps taken to further prevention. The contents of the report also serve as a demonstration of Latin America's will and commitment to continue working on the consolidation of peace, security, and rights for all.

This Annual Report outlines the actions that took place at the national, regional and international levels for the prevention of genocide in 2016, with assistance as well as financial, logistical and institutional support provided by the Technical Secretariat of the Latin American Network for Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention (AIPR).

## List of Activities

### Initiation of the Third Cycle of the Raphael Lemkin Seminar for the Latin American Network in Poland



The Auschwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (AIPR), together with the Office of the Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide (OSAPG), and the Stanley Foundation, along with the support of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA), began the third cycle of the Raphael Lemkin Seminar for the Latin American Network for Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention on February 14-21, 2016 in Poland.

The Seminar was attended by 21 government officials from different member countries of the Latin American Network for Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention. As with previous iterations, participants benefitted from the “power of place” in addressing important concepts and key tools for the prevention of genocide and other atrocities and reflecting on the processes that enable these crimes to take place.



For AIPR, the third cycle of the Raphael Lemkin Seminar for the Latin American Network has a special symbolic value, as it represents the sustained commitment by the countries of the region. This is made apparent not only through active participation in these training efforts, but also through the continued strengthening of a community of government officials sensitive to, and willing to work on, issues of prevention at the regional level.

### Launch of the 2015 Annual Report of the Technical Secretariat of the Latin American Network for Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention

On the evening of March 8, 2016, the Auschwitz Institute held a launch event for the 2015 Annual Report of the Technical Secretariat of the Latin American Network for Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention at the offices of White and Case LLP in New York City.



The launch was attended by representatives from many participating countries in the Latin American Network, including Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Mexico, Peru, the Dominican Republic, and Uruguay. Members of civil society and the international community were also present, with representatives from the Permanent Missions of Belgium and Germany alongside those from the Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect, the International Coalition for the Responsibility to Protect, the Vance Center for International Justice, and the Historical Memory Project in attendance.

The event featured a number of speakers, highlighting the collaborative nature of efforts made by the supporters, partners, and Technical Secretariat of the Latin American Network. Speaking first was Dr. Tibi Galis, Executive Director of AIPR, who welcomed the audience and gave a brief introduction to the nature and work of the Latin American Network, including the efforts of its partners and participating member countries.

Following Dr. Galis’ remarks, Mr. Owen Pell, Partner at White and Case and President of AIPR’s Board of Directors, took to the podium

to discuss the ways in which the Latin American Network is “laying a path on the road to developing the Rule of Law around principles of genocide prevention.” The Auschwitz Institute’s Latin American Program staff also presented details regarding the operation of the Network, including programs and activities carried out in 2015.

Following this, a representative from the United Nations Office of the Special Adviser for the Prevention of Genocide highlighted the advances achieved by the members of the Network regarding its consolidation and mentioned the impressions of the Special Adviser, Adams Dieng, saying:

*Already now at the age of 4, the Latin American Network is showing its potential as a regional tool to support the mainstreaming of atrocity prevention in national agendas. This experience continues to resonate in other continents and at the global level. But this remarkable progress constitutes as much an opportunity as it is a responsibility.*

Finally, Ms. Carrie DuLaney, Program Officer at the Stanley Foundation, reflected on the Stanley Foundation’s early and consistent support for the Latin American Network, as evidenced by its role in co-organizing the first Focal Points Meeting in Argentina and its involvement in each subsequent meeting.

These efforts, as mentioned by several of the event’s speakers and represented in full by the Annual Report, have not gone without notice by the international community. During a United Nations General Assembly panel discussion, entitled “from commitment to implementation: ten years of the responsibility to protect,” the UN Deputy Secretary-General, Jan Eliasson, highlighted the efforts of the Latin American Network and other regional and international bodies of cooperation, explaining that these collaborative entities enhance the ability of states to react in a timely manner to “...prevent a downward spiral towards systematic violence. They help identify ways to assist States to better protect their populations.”



## Launch of the Latin American Network-IPPDH-AIPR Meeting Space

As part of a joint initiative by the Auschwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation and the International School of Public Policy on Human Rights at the MERCOSUR Institute of Public Policies on Human Rights (IPPDH), a new tool for communication and interaction between alumni of the Raphael Lemkin Seminar for the Latin American Network for Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention has been launched.

The Latin American Network-IPPDH-AIPR Meeting Space is a virtual tool designed to function as a mechanism that supports training initiatives, the construction of public policy in human rights, and the prevention of atrocities in Latin America.

The proposal to create a virtual space emerged from both the Network itself and an initiative to establish an institutional link between the IPPDH and AIPR to better channel collaborative efforts and explore new areas for cooperation and joint works. With the support of the Focal Points of the Latin American Network, this new digital



initiative will foster an improved flow of communication, materials, and information on human rights and genocide prevention among public officials in the region while simultaneously strengthening the processes that are being developed in Latin America.

The Technical Secretariat is pleased to participate in this project and hopes the Meeting Space will constitute a new source of input that contributes to the continued consolidation of the Latin American Network for Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention since its inception in 2012.

### **AIPR co-Organizes Raphael Lemkin Seminar and Latin American Network Focal Points Meeting in Montevideo**

Alongside the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uruguay, the Stanley Foundation, and the United Nations Office of the Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide (OSAPG), the Auschwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (AIPR) co-organized the VI Focal Points Meeting of the Latin American Network for Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention on July 25, 2016 in Montevideo, Uruguay.

The Focal Points Meeting worked towards 5 concrete objectives related to the development and expansion of the Latin American Network's activities. The meeting also served as an opportunity to promote collaborative efforts between member states, present initiatives that had been planned and/or implemented since the previous meeting, and to facilitate the continuation of major projects.

The VI Focal Points Meeting addressed the progress of, and challenges related to, long-term projects being carried out within the context of the Network. These include the research project on indigenous peoples being conducted by the OSAPG with the Network's assistance and the status of the pilot phase of the project on Education and Prevention in Latin America, in addition to numerous projects being carried out on the national level by member states.



Beginning on Tuesday, July 26, the Auschwitz Institute joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uruguay and the Stanley Foundation to hold the concluding half of the Raphael Lemkin Seminar for Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention for the Latin American Network. The multi-day training in Montevideo completed the third cycle of bi-annual trainings which began in Poland in February of 2016, as agreed upon by the member states of the Network.

From July 26-29, the Raphael Lemkin Seminar welcomed 21 government officials from Departments of Foreign Affairs, Human Rights, Education, Defense, and Ombudsman's Offices in participating countries of the Latin American Network. Attendees benefitted from the "power of place" offered by the Seminar's location in Montevideo through the incorporation of guided study visits to the Uruguayan Museum of Memory (MUME) and the Memorial in Remembrance of the Detained and Disappeared.

The seminar incorporated aspects of the history and context of mass atrocities in Latin America together with a presentation on civil-military relations in the region and a case study on Uruguay's Military Dictatorship, allowing participants to reflect on the role of Memory, Truth and Justice policies in genocide and mass atrocity prevention.

Additionally, there was a segment dedicated to the analysis of the condition of indigenous populations in Latin America, using two case studies from Brazil and Bolivia. Finally, the program included topics such as protection, education and strengthening of Human Rights in Latin America.

For AIPR, the seminar's approach allowed participants to fully delve into the themes and challenges involved in the prevention of genocide and other mass atrocities work. In this context, the conclusion of the third cycle of Raphael Lemkin Seminars for Latin America (2014-2016) confirms the motivation and interest of regional government officials to continue expanding upon these opportunities for reflection and collaboration.



### VII Meeting of Latin American Network Focal Points held In Quito

On November 28 and 29, the Auschwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation, the Office of the Ombudsman of Ecuador, the Stanley Foundation, and the United Nations Office of the Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide (OSAPG), co-organized the VII Focal Points Meeting of the Latin American Network for Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention in Quito, Ecuador.

As with previous editions, the VII Focal Points Meeting served as an opportunity to promote collaborative efforts between member states, to introduce new topics, and to facilitate the continuation of major projects towards the consolidation of the Latin American Network. Equally, this Focal Points Meeting worked to address the progress of, and challenges related to, long-term projects of the Network as well as initiatives carried out at the national level by member states. It also served as an opportune moment to take significant steps towards the progressive consolidation of this regional forum.

Within the framework of the meeting, the Network's Focal Points moved to issue an official joint message with respect to the International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide and of the Prevention of this Crime. The statement's text is reproduced below:

*Sharing the spirit of the United Nations General Assembly Resolution which established December 9 as the International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide and of the Prevention of this Crime, the Latin American Network for Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention, assembled on the occasion of its VII periodic meeting in the city of Quito, reiterates its conviction that continuing work in prevention mobilizes continued reflection on past atrocities, honors victims and their family members, and strengthens commitments to reinforce and provide increasingly concrete actions in the human rights and atrocity prevention agendas.*



*Quito, Ecuador. November 29, 2016*

## National Initiatives: Mexico

### Training Seminar - Tools For The Education of Armed and Security Forces with a Focus on Prevention

Within the framework of training activities on prevention held regularly by Mexico, a seminar entitled “Tools for the Education of Armed and Security Forces with a Focus on Prevention” was held on Wednesday, April 27, 2016 in Mexico City. Organized by the Mexican Inter-secretarial Commission for International Humanitarian Law (CIDIH Mexico) and the Auschwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation in collaboration with the United Nations Office of the Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide (OSAPG), the event was delivered to an audience of over 100 attendees. The seminar worked to create an opportunity for the dissemination of information and reflection on the importance of training in Human Rights and prevention of atrocities for personnel of the Armed Forces and security services at the national and regional level.



The training was led by presenters with a high level of experience and involvement in human rights and the prevention of genocide and mass atrocities, including representatives from the Mexican Naval Secretary, and the Uruguayan National School for Peacekeeping Operations, as well as the Regional Delegation of the International Committee for the Red Cross for Mexico, Central America, and Cuba.

This seminar afforded participants a detailed illustration of the concepts of genocide and mass atrocities from a historical point of view, as well as a review of applicable international standards. The preventive role of armed and security forces was addressed as well as the relevance of including these themes in the training strategies for officials working in the security sector.

Additionally, in keeping with the spirit of cooperation that inspires the work of the Latin American Network for Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention, a segment of the seminar included a presentation of the challenges faced by the Uruguayan National School for Peacekeeping Operations in relation to the role of Peacekeeping Operations in prevention strategies. This doubtlessly functioned as an opportunity for interaction and the exchange of concrete experiences related to prevention.

## National Initiatives: Ecuador

### Seminar on the Importance of the Creation of Spaces of Memory within the Process of Intangible Reparations in Quito

The national Office of the Ombudsman along with the Ministry of Culture and Patrimony of Ecuador, in collaboration with the Technical Secretariat of the Network, carried out an International Seminar titled “The Importance of the Creation of Spaces of Memory within the Process of Intangible Reparations” on September 19-21, 2016 in Quito. This new initiative comes as a part of the efforts being undertaken by Ecuador with the objective of strengthening its process of comprehensive reparations to the victims of grave violations of human rights, as documented in the report issued by the country’s

Truth Commission, and the identification of its policy importance to future prevention efforts.

The international seminar fostered an opportunity for dialogue between State institutions and the beneficiaries of these reparations, aiming to reinforce the preservation of sites of memory and the creation of a Museum of Memory in Ecuador. International experts participating in the activity discussed and shared contributions on topics such as: collective memory within the context of truth and reparations processes, participation in processes for the construction of memory, memory and the experience of the Resistance Memorial in Sao Paulo, and memory and related methods for communication.



The presentations contributed to a successful event, characterized by a high level of collective participation and involvement. Attendees analyzed existing challenges in order to identify ways to repair the damage caused by the grave violations of human rights through the creation of spaces of memory and presented the resulting proposals.

### **AIPR co-Organizes Course on Prevention with the Universidad Externado de Colombia**

On September 14-17, 2016, the Latin American Program of the Auschwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation launched the first training initiative on the prevention of genocide and mass atrocities developed jointly with a university in the region. The initiative included participation of professionals from the academic sphere, as well as public officials and representatives of civil society. AIPR, in collaboration with the Faculty of Finances, Government, and International Relations of the Universidad Externado de Colombia, offered a 32-hour course on Early Warning Mechanisms and Public Policy for the Prevention of Mass Atrocities with the collaboration and participation of the United Nations Office of the Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide and the representative from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Colombia to the Latin American Network

The curriculum provided actors in different spheres of society who are engaged in relevant work with an opportunity to receive disseminated information and to reflect on the importance of training in human rights and the prevention of atrocities. The program included presentations by a diverse set of high-profile instructors involved in an array of work related to the themes of the event. These instructors were drawn from the faculty of the University itself, representatives from civil society, and from several State institutions from the region (including those from Peru, Uruguay, Colombia, and Argentina). Additionally, the course incorporated three modules taught by Dr. James Waller, AIPR's Director of Academic Programs, and a visit to Colombia's Center for Memory, Peace, and Reconciliation.

The course, which allowed for the concepts of genocide and mass atrocities to be developed from a historical point of view, also involved participants in a review of related international standards. 4 thematic modules, dedicated to analyzing concrete avenues for action relevant to prevention in Latin America (transitional justice, the fight against discrimination, educational policies, and challenges in inter-institutional work), were included in the curriculum.

AIPR is honored to have shared this opportunity for training and reflection with the prestigious Universidad Externado de Colombia, especially during this particular moment in which hopes are set on the fulfillment of an irreversible process towards peace.

### **Fifth “Augusto Ramírez Ocampo” Course on International Humanitarian Law in Colombia**

The fifth edition of the course on international humanitarian law (IHL), organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the International Committee of the Red Cross, took place in Melgar, Colombia, from September 21-23. In similar fashion to the previous four editions, the Technical Secretariat/AIPR was invited by the representation of Colombia in the Network to collaborate in identifying an expert to participate in one of the seminar modules and to bring the Network’s approach and thematic considerations to a significant number of public servants from around the country.

### **Seventh Annual Course on International Humanitarian Law at the National Level in Mexico**

The seventh edition of the course on International Humanitarian Law, organized by the Inter-Secretarial Commission on International Humanitarian Law, took place in Campeche, Mexico from August 25-26. For the second year in a row, the course featured a module focused on the analysis of IHL violations and the prevention of them. As with previous courses, in response to a request from the representative of Mexico to the Network, the Technical Secretariat/AIPR collaborated in identifying an international expert to take part in this module and to support the efforts made towards reflection and raising the visibility of this issue among Mexican public officials.

### **Technical Secretariat/AIPR - Support and Technical Assistance for Atrocity Prevention Initiatives in Latin America**

#### **Technical assistance to joint thematic projects carried out within the context of the Network**

The TS/AIPR provided technical assistance for the follow up of joint activities fostered within the framework of the Network related to topics such as indigenous populations, rights related to the LGTBI community, and follow up and support to AIPR’s Educational Policies Program, which is currently active in Brazil and El Salvador. The TS/AIPR collaborates with the efforts of thematic committees formed within the Network.

## **Support for the creation and consolidation of National Mechanisms for Genocide Prevention in Latin America**

**Paraguay:** The TS/AIPR provides follow up and technical assistance to the efforts aimed at the formation of a National Mechanism on Genocide Prevention, which is currently under consideration by the National Congress of Paraguay.

## **Commitment to the strengthening of strategic bonds with national human rights institutions through the Ibero-American Federation of the Ombudsman and increasing the visibility of best practices**

**Brazil and Ecuador:** Within the context of the institutional relationship that the TS/AIPR has maintained with the Ibero-American Federation of the Ombudsman (FIO), in 2016 a joint initiative was carried out that concluded in a publication entitled “The Role of the Ombudsman in Transitional Justice Processes”. The initiative involved the participation of the Offices of the Ombudsman of Brazil and Ecuador, Focal Points of the Network, and of FIO members. The Offices of the Ombudsman of Colombia and Guatemala also contributed to the project. These efforts represented a joint work experience on issues relevant to both fora - the Latin American Network and the FIO - and provides a tool for raising awareness and disseminating information on advances in Latin America related to transitional justice processes.

**Latin American Parliamentarians Dialogue:** The TS/AIPR is working on raising awareness and involving social actors relevant to the progressive incorporation of an atrocity prevention perspective in the different institutional agendas of Network member countries. AIPR, the Stanley Foundation and the UN Office of the Special Adviser for the Prevention of Genocide and the Responsibility to Protect organized a space for dialogue for Latin American Parliamentarians in Cartagena, Colombia in October of 2016. The activity, which also included the participation of the representative of Colombia to the Latin American Network, functioned as an effective platform for communicating regional progress and challenges related to prevention with regards to legislative responsibility.

## **Technical assistance and follow up on the AIPR project “Education for the Prevention of Mass Atrocity in Latin America”.**

The TS/AIPR is engaged in active follow-up on the project “Education for the Prevention of Mass Atrocity in Latin America”. This project is the first to be developed under the new AIPR Educational Policies Program and aims to design and carry out education and prevention initiatives in two member countries of the Latin American Network for Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention.

The project on Education and Prevention started in June 2015 when its Director, Dr. Clara Ramírez-Barat, presented a proposal at the IV Focal Points Meeting held in Santiago, Chile. On that occasion, a call was opened to member countries of the Network interested in implementing this project to indicate their candidacy. This process ended in April 2016, with the formal announcement of Brazil and El

Salvador as the two countries chosen to carry out the pilot phase. Since then, the first activities of the project have been developed in both countries.

The project's first meeting in El Salvador took place on July 12-13 in its capital city, San Salvador. 35 representatives of the educational community, civil society and public institutions participated in the meeting, as well as several observers from international organizations. The discussion worked to establish the first guidelines of a working proposal to be developed by a group of experts in the topic. The meeting was co-organized by AIPR and the Office of the Ombudsman of El Salvador (a Focal Point institution of the Network).

Meanwhile, the first meeting in Brazil took place on November 30 in Brasília. This meeting aimed to formulate an agreed upon strategy to adapt the nature and ambition of the project to the Brazilian context, taking into consideration the country's demographic and geographic complexity. This meeting was organized by AIPR along with the Office of the Ombudsman and the Special Secretary for Human Rights (both are Focal Points of the Network). In similar fashion to the meeting organized in El Salvador, it was attended by 50 participants from civil society, the education community, public institutions and several international observers.

The project, proposed and implemented by AIPR and supported by the Network, aims to become an added value to strengthening existing initiatives to consolidate the culture of peace and respect for human rights in Latin America.

### **Technical assistance for the planning, programming, implementation, and evaluation of the pilot phase of the Raphael Lemkin Seminar for the Latin American Network**

One of the main tools of the Network is the Raphael Lemkin Seminar, in its Latin American version. The Lemkin Seminar for the Latin American Network is an initiative that has been implemented by AIPR, OSAPG, and the Stanley Foundation since 2013. It has increasingly become an active and continuous policy training tool for Latin American public officials. Stemming from the Network's mandate, AIPR has provided a curriculum that includes concepts and materials as well as innovative methodological proposals and a high-level group of instructors, all aimed to the prevention of genocide and mass atrocity.

This seminar has been put into practice through the following cycles of biannual seminars:

#### **First Edition**

- June, 2013 in Oświęcim, Poland.
- June, 2014 in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

#### **Second Edition**

- October, 2014 in Oświęcim, Poland.
- May, 2015 in Santiago, Chile.

### Third Edition

- February, 2016 in Oświęcim, Poland.
- July, 2016 in Montevideo, Uruguay.

The three editions constituting the pilot phase have been successfully concluded. As is shown in the following figure, beyond invited instructors from the region, more than 80 public officials from Latin America were given the opportunity to participate in this experience. This group represents a diverse community of key actors who actively participate in a network that designs, supports, and strengthen preventive actions<sup>1</sup>.

After the conclusion of the pilot phase, the member countries of the Latin American Network have requested the continued implementation of the Raphael Lemkin Seminars for the Latin American Network. Therefore, the initiative will continue to represent a fundamental part of regional advances on training and atrocity prevention.

<sup>1</sup> Please note that the quantity of instructors reflected in the following figure refers only to instructors coming from countries within Latin America. AIPR also includes instructors from other regions in its curricular design.

# Impact of the Raphael Lemkin Seminar for the Latin American Network

Pilot Phase – 2013-2016

