

RED LATINOAMERICANA PARA LA PREVENCIÓN DEL GENOCIDIO Y ATROCIDADES MASIVAS

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LATIN AMERICAN NETWORK FOR GENOCIDE AND MASS ATROCITY PREVENTION

Developed by the Auschwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation, Technical Secretariat of the Latin American Network



The Latin American Network for Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention was created in 2012 through an initiative of the governments of Argentina and Brazil. It includes representatives of National Ministries and Offices of the Ombudsman from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela. It represents a governmental effort on behalf of the countries of Latin America to construct regional and national structures for the prevention of genocide and mass atrocities, as well as to empower Latin American States to become leaders on this subject on the international scene.

The initiative relies on the support of the Auschwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (AIPR), the United Nations Office of the Special Advisor on the Prevention of Genocide (OSAPG), and the Stanley Foundation. With regional leadership, AIPR facilitated the development of a proposed curriculum for the educational component, which was presented to the participating countries at the first planning meeting of the Network.

This meeting took place in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in March 2012, where representatives of Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Defense, Justice, and Ombudsman's Offices of the 18 member countries met to discuss the development of future policies and receive training on the prevention of genocide.

The goals of the Network are directed towards the development and implementation of a curriculum on the prevention of genocide in certain mandatory training programs within the participating institutions of each country, as well as towards regional cooperation and the

development of national initiatives for the prevention of genocide.

The Latin American curriculum on genocide and mass atrocity prevention is put into practice through bi-annual Raphael Lemkin Seminars carried out in Oswiecim, Poland, and other predetermined sites in Latin America where mass atrocities took place. At these seminars, the proposed curriculum is revised and put to the test by participants from each member country. Throughout this process, participants collaborate with their Network Focal Points and existing National Mechanisms to facilitate the implementation of the curriculum after 2016 at the national level within their respective countries.

Part one of the first cycle of training took place in Poland in June 2013. Part two followed in June 2014 in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The first part of the second cycle was held in Poland in October 2014 while part two of this cycle will take place in Latin America in May 2015.

Beyond the educational component, each member country has taken on the task of identifying areas within its governmental structure where prevention programs for the prevention of genocide and mass atrocities can be implemented. These national initiatives range from the inter-institutional establishment of genocide prevention seminars to the development of policies for the protection of indigenous and vulnerable groups.

The Network, with the support of the Technical Secretariat (AIPR), is actively working on promoting to the international level the work of the Latin American States in this area and in making their voices central in the international effort to prevent genocide and mass atrocities.



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Annual Report of the Activities of the Technical Secretariat of the Latin American Network for Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention

This report outlines actions implemented at the national, regional, and international levels relating to genocide prevention made possible by the assistance, financial and logistical support, plus institutional leadership, of the Technical Secretariat of the Latin American Network for Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention (AIPR).

Summary of Activities

Side Event to the 25th Regular Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council (Geneva, Switzerland)



A side event to the 25th regular session of the United Nations Human Rights Council took place on March 4, 2014. It was organized by the Permanent Mission of Ecuador to the United Nations and with the financial support of the governments of Chile and Argentina. The activity allowed us to present the history and achievements of the Latin American Network to civil society organizations and representatives of the international community. The event was attended by representatives of Mexico, Cuba, Uruguay, Peru, Paraguay, Belgium, Australia, Canada, and Montenegro, among others, as well as delegates from non-governmental organizations.

As planned, the event provided an appropriate framework for considering and sharing best practices in the creation of National Mechanisms for prevention and early warning, as well as for strengthening and increasing the visibility of the Latin American Network as an international tool and forum for cooperation and the exchange of best practices.

GAAMAC Event (San José, Costa Rica)

The Latin American Network was represented in the first meeting of the Global Action Against Mass Atrocity Crimes (GAAMAC), an initiative aimed at the development of prevention strategies at the national and regional levels. The event took place in San José, Costa Rica, from March 4 - 6, 2014. Over the course of these days, the achievements of the Network as a forum that promotes national action for genocide prevention were highlighted, and we were able to present the experience of Latin America in this field. Representatives from Colombia, Bolivia, Paraguay, Brazil, Argentina, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Mexico, and Chile were present, among others.

Conference on Genocide Prevention (Brussels, Belgium)

The Latin American Network received a special mention in the Closing Remarks of the Conference on Genocide Prevention that took place in Brussels from March 31-April 1, 2014. The report, which summarized the position of the 125 participating countries, noted that the Latin American Network is a forum that contributes “immensely” towards the prevention of genocide and mass atrocities.

Conclusion of the First Cycle of the Raphael Lemkin Seminar for Genocide Prevention, Latin American Edition

The culmination of the first cycle of this seminar represents another step in the initial commitment to construct a common curriculum for the civil servants of the countries of the region that constitute the Latin American Network. The Latin American curriculum on genocide and mass atrocity prevention is put into practice through biannual seminars carried out in Oświęcim, Poland, and other predetermined sites in Latin America. As such, both segments featured a high level of participation (Oświęcim, Poland, in June 2013 and Buenos Aires, Argentina, in June 2014).



Second Focal Points Meeting for the Latin American Network for Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention

The **Second Focal Points Meeting of the Latin American Network** took place in the city of Buenos Aires on June 16, 2014. **It was attended by the representatives of the 18 countries that make up the Network and Adama Dieng**, the UN Secretary General's Special Adviser for the Prevention of Genocide. At this meeting the Focal Points presented the initiatives that had been developed or were being planned for the second half of 2014. They also discussed proposals for joint action for strengthening the regional forum.



Signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ibero-American Federation of Ombudsmen and the Auschwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation, within the framework of the commitment and technical assistance of the Latin American Network

During the General Assembly of the Ibero-American Federation of Ombudsmen (FIO) on October 4, 2014, and upon the approval of the initiative by the public defenders and ombudsmen who were present, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed with the purpose of developing tools of cooperation between the FIO and AIPR in the areas of training and research on the prevention of genocide and mass atrocities.

The memorandum outlines several areas for cooperation, namely:

- a) Organizing training programs on genocide and mass atrocity prevention and/or incorporating them in preexisting programs on the issue;
- b) Promoting research aimed at identifying possible scenarios for the development of new national and regional initiatives on genocide and mass atrocity prevention within the framework of the capacities of the national human rights institutions that are a part of the FIO;
- c) Providing mutual technical assistance in areas that can be identified and agreed upon; and
- d) Fostering the exchange of information on the objectives, programs, development strategies, and activities that implement these actions in order to facilitate the coordination and execution of shared activities.



During the General Assembly of the FIO, the Technical Secretariat of the Network held meetings with Guillermo Escobar Roca, Director of the Regional Program of Support to the Ombudsmen in Ibero-America. We expect to work together toward the implementation of research projects for the development of new national and regional initiatives on prevention within the competencies of the national human rights institutions that form part of the FIO.

Meanwhile, the event featured a segment for the Latin American Network to be presented to the full Assembly, which created a space for sharing and promoting the initiative.

Launch of the Second Cycle of the Raphael Lemkin Seminar for Genocide Prevention, Latin American edition



From October 12-19, 2014, part one of the second cycle of the Latin American Raphael Lemkin Seminar for Genocide Prevention took place in Oświęcim, Poland. The seminar addressed critical issues related to the prevention of genocide and atrocity crimes, including how to recognize and address warning signs. This second part of the cycle will be held in May 2015 in a Latin American country with the participation of civil servants with responsibilities related to the promotion of human rights and the prevention of genocide, as identified by the Focal Points of the Network. The continuation of the seminar reflects the shared commitment towards building a common curriculum in genocide prevention for Latin American Network members.

Third Focal Points Meeting of the Latin American Network for Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention



The Third Focal Points Meeting of the Latin American Network took place on December 4, 2014, in Panama City.

This meeting was part of the agenda agreed upon by the 18 representatives of the governments that are active members of the Network. As part of the event, the governmental representatives shared the initiatives developed in 2014 and discussed proposals for joint action to develop in 2015. For the first time in the context of these meetings, there was a series of thematic modules for the discussion and exchange of experiences regarding public policy with a focus on prevention. Those interactive modules focused on the circumstances of indigenous populations within the region, best practices in the development of capacity building for peacekeepers and security forces, and national experiences in the process of implementing National Mechanisms for genocide prevention. The meeting was supported by AIPR, OSAPG, the Stanley Foundation, and the Office of the Ombudsman of Panama.

Mention of the Latin American Network for Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention in the Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

A summary of the discussions of the high-level roundtable dedicated to the 65th anniversary of the Convention for the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide—UN document A/HRC/27/24 (30 June 2014)—described how the Secretary General's Special Adviser for the Prevention of Genocide singled out the Latin American Network as an initiative for developing preventive strategies.

*The Special Advisor also highlighted various regional initiatives to develop preventive capacity, such as the establishment of the Regional Committee for the Prevention and Punishment of Genocide, War Crimes, Crimes against Humanity and all Forms of Discrimination, by the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, and **the Latin American Network for Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention**. He also referred to inter-agency arrangements, and to the nomination of focal points on the responsibility to protect or on the prevention of genocide. He referred to the Global Action Against Mass Atrocity Crimes meeting that had taken place in Costa Rica in March 2014, which had brought together 56 States that had appointed the focal points. He further highlighted national prevention initiatives launched by members of various regional networks.*

Mention of the Latin American Network in the July 2014 Responsibility to Protect Report of the UN Secretary General

Paragraph 25 of *Fulfilling our collective responsibility: international assistance and the responsibility to protect (Pillar II)* – 11 July 2014 (A/68/947-S/2014/449) reflects yet again the scope and relevance of the Latin American Network as a forum for collaboration and mutual assistance.

“The increasing number of global and regional networks of States dedicated to preventing atrocity crimes opens new avenues for partnership and mutual assistance. The work of the Global Network of Responsibility to Protect Focal Points, Global Action Against Mass Atrocity Crimes and **the Latin American Network for Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention** demonstrates how shared objectives and lessons learned from past experience may help States to identify effective protection strategies.”

Efforts to Support National Initiatives

Costa Rica

The **Seminar on Tools for Genocide Prevention** took place in San José, Costa Rica, on March 3, 2014, and was intended for civil servants with competency in the fields of human rights and international humanitarian law.

The seminar was organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Costa Rica and AIPR, with the collaboration of OSAPG. The opening session was led by Ms. Vicecancellor of the Republic of Costa Rica, Gioconda Ubeda Rivera, and the **Alternate Representative of Costa Rica to the United Nations, Ambassador Saúl Weisleder**.

Over the course of the seminar, participants approached the concepts of genocide and mass atrocities, the framework of prevention, and ideas for the implementation of early-warning systems. Additionally, the Latin American Network for Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention was presented. In this context—and by virtue of the dynamics of exchange and cooperation that inspired the establishment of the Latin American Network—a module was developed on the experience of the Republic of Paraguay in the implementation of public policy for the prevention of genocide and mass atrocities, with a focus on social inclusion and fighting discrimination. The module was led by Yudith Rolón, General Director in the Directorate of Truth, Justice and Reparation of the Office of the Ombudsman, Paraguay, and Focal Point in the Latin American Network.

Mexico



The **Seminar on International Mechanisms for Mass Atrocity Prevention** took place April 23 and 24 in Mexico City, Mexico, and was directed towards civil servants and representatives from civil society and academia.

The seminar was organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico, the Memory and Tolerance Museum, and AIPR, with the collaboration of OSAPG.

The opening session was led by Ambassador Juan Manuel Gómez Robledo, Undersecretary for Multilateral Issues and Human Rights of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Max Diener Sala, Legal Counsel of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Tibi Galis, Executive Director of AIPR; and James Waller, AIPR's Academic Programs Director. In recorded remarks, UN Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide Adama Dieng highlighted the importance of developing a seminar that focuses on prevention, along with the role of Mexico in regional and national efforts on the prevention of genocide.

The seminar included modules on the Holocaust, the legal frameworks for genocide and mass atrocities prevention, and the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) norm. The Latin American Network was presented and participants partook in an interactive exercise. Participants also went on a guided tour of the Museum of Memory and Tolerance of Mexico.

Chile

On April 8, 2014, the Department of Human Rights and the Academy of Police Sciences of the Carabineros of Chile organized the **International Conference for the Prevention of Genocide and Other Mass Atrocities**. It was attended by students of the Masters program offered by the Academy of Police Sciences of the Carabineros.

The active participation of the Carabineros institution in the training of its officials highlighted the commitment of Chile towards genocide prevention. A follow up activity, the **Specialized Course on Human Rights, Policing, and Protection of Vulnerable Groups**, will be offered in the second half of 2015.



Paraguay

On August 27 and 28, 2014, the presentation of the Paraguay Chapter of the Latin American Network for Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention took place in Asunción. It was directed towards civil servants and civil society representatives who actively work on the establishment and support of Paraguay's human rights agency.

Modules presented the objectives of the Latin American Network for Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention and the role of Paraguay's Focal Points in advancing toward the Network's consolidation as a tool of regional cooperation. The event also recognized the support provided by the Office of the Special Advisor to the Network and to the national initiatives that take place within it.

The final segment of the activity included an interactive forum where participants made tentative proposals towards the institutionalization of a National Mechanism for the Prevention of Genocide. Participants of this segment included representatives from the government and civil society organizations that are focused on the development and coordination of projects on human rights, memory, truth, justice, and education, with a focus on prevention and special protection of vulnerable groups.



Mexico

From September 29-30, 2014, the **Fifth Annual Specialized Course on International Humanitarian Law** was held within the context of the activities created by the Inter-Ministerial Commission of International Humanitarian Law. The course aimed to promote the respect of norms, principles, and institutions of international humanitarian law and featured a Conference on Tools for the Prevention of International Crimes and the Responsibility to Protect.

Colombia

From October 8-10, 2014, the **Third Augusto Ramirez Ocampo Course on International Humanitarian Law** was held to raise awareness of International Humanitarian Law among the authorities responsible for its application in Colombia. Just like in the previous edition of the course, this edition incorporated specific modules relating to the prevention of genocide and mass atrocities and to the development of regional tools of prevention.



Peru



In the context of the actions of the Latin American Network in Peru, a workshop was held on the international standards applied to the use of force, with a focus on prevention. The workshop took place October 28 - 30 and aimed to strengthen the process of forming and disseminating standards on this subject among relevant government officials. This event was co-organized by Peru's National Commission of the Study and Application of International Humanitarian Law (CONADIH), the Center for Research in Justice and Human Rights, and the General Office of Cooperation and Projects of the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the Program for Latin America, and AIPR assisted with logistics and funding.

Argentina/Honduras – Joint Initiative



On October 24, 2014, the first videoconference between the governments of Honduras and Argentina specifically on the topic of prevention was held. The activity, **Tools for the Implementation of a National Plan Against Discrimination with a Focus on Mass Atrocities Prevention**, was co-organized by the Directorate of Human Rights of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Belief of Argentina and the Directorate of Human Rights, Justice, Governance and Decentralization of Honduras, with support from AIPR. It featured modules by **Federico Villegas Beltrán** (General Director of Human Rights, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship of Argentina, and member of the coordinating team of the National Plan against Discrimination for the Republic of Argentina), **Dr. Horacio Ravenna** (Member of the Board of Directors of *Memoria Abierta* and member of the coordinating team of the National Plan against Discrimination for the Republic of Argentina), and **Dr. Julián Díaz Bardelli** (Director of Aid to Victims of the National Institute against Discrimination, Xenophobia, and Racism for the Republic of Argentina). Convened by **Maritza Ohara Carcamo** (Director of Education in Human Rights, Justice, and Peace Culture and Focal Point to the Latin American Network), the event drew a packed auditorium and opened the possibility for planning future collaborative activities to promote the exchange of experiences and training in the prevention of discrimination.

Institutional Management and Dissemination of the Latin American Network in 2014

- 1) Meetings with representatives of the Ministry of International Relations and Cooperation of Spain, with the goal of identifying possible fields of action and cooperation with the Network, including:
 - a) Offering the use of locations in the countries of the region to develop events for the Network.
 - b) Cooperation for entry into the Register of Networks of the Secretary General of the Ibero-American Summit (formal issues).
 - c) Support of the accredited embassies in the countries of the region.
- 2) Meeting with the Coordinator of the Latin American Network of Sites of Conscience, exchange of information on each one of the networks, and exploration of common fields of action.
- 3) Meeting with the Director of the Museum of Memory and Human Rights in Chile.
- 4) Work with the Program of Support to the Ombudsmen of Ibero-America toward the design of a research project on the role of Ombudsmen in policies of Memory, Truth, and Justice in the region.
- 5) Negotiations and communications with His Holiness Pope Francisco recognizing the Latin American Network and inviting him to participate in the Raphael Lemkin Seminar for on the Prevention of Genocide, Latin American edition (October 2014).
- 6) Preparation of the first edition of a newsletter with information about the events developed in the first half of 2014, which was distributed to high national authorities of the member countries of the Network. Distribution to Focal Points via e-mail.
- 7) Meetings with civil servants of human rights, defense, and justice in the context of missions to countries of the region.
- 8) Negotiations and meetings with leaders of the National School of Peace Operations of Uruguay with the goal of exploring options for joint work on training through the framework of the Latin American Network for Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention.
- 9) Negotiations and meetings with leaders of the Department of Human Rights of the Carabineros Institution of Chile to strengthen the institutional ties and existing cooperation efforts through the Network.
- 10) Negotiations with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Cuba for the incorporation of the country into the Latin American Network.
- 11) Support to the Project of the Regional Coordinator of Economic and Social Research (CRIES, for its Spanish initials) in the workshop on "Prevention of Mass Human Rights Violations and Genocide: The Role of Civil Society Organizations in El Salvador," which aimed to encourage the participation of civil society in the discussions on the issue and in the creation of preventive mechanisms at the national level, in line with the efforts of the Latin American Network for Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention.

Seminars and Initiatives Carried Out (2014) and Planned (2015)



■ Events carried out in 2014

■ Planned events – 2015 (as of 22 December 2014)

Participants and Instructors of the Raphael Lemkin Seminars (2014)



Total Participants of Seminars and Training Events on the Prevention of Genocide and Mass Atrocities in the context of the Latin American Network for Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention during 2014

