

The background image shows a police officer in a dark blue uniform and cap with the Arabic word 'مشرطة' (Mushrta) on it, wearing a white face mask. He is looking down at a woman in a queue. The woman is wearing a black and blue patterned headscarf, a black long-sleeved shirt, and a blue face mask. She is looking up at the officer. In the background, other people are visible in a queue, some wearing headscarves and face masks. The setting appears to be an outdoor public area with buildings in the background.

ilac

International
Legal Assistance
Consortium

Equal access to justice for all

ILAC ANNUAL REPORT 2020



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Improving access to justice in conflict-affected countries

Who we are

ILAC is an international non-governmental organisation based in Sweden. We work to strengthen the rule of law, empower legal professionals and to ensure equal access to justice for all where people's justice needs are greatest – in conflict, crisis or transition.

ILAC was established in 2002 as a mechanism to coordinate the work of international and regional actors in the re-establishment of the rule of law in war-torn countries. Over the past 18 years, ILAC has carried out rule of law assessment missions and initiated legal reform programmes in 16 countries.

As an international consortium of over 80 professional associations and technical assistance organisations and individual experts that have come together to help rebuild justice systems in fragile, conflict-affected and post conflict states, ILAC is well suited to responding rapidly to emerging rule of law challenges in fragile settings. As a justice hub, our objective is to coordinate between local stakeholders and the international community, so that technical assistance programmes are impactful, complementary and do not overburden in-country partners.

In making its assessment reports public, ILAC seeks to assist national rule of law actors identify both gaps and opportunities for reform, and to contribute to better coordinated and more effective international support to post-conflict rule of law reconstruction.

While legislation and capable institutions are front and centre of ILAC's engagement, we also see the need for changing mindsets and behaviour of legal professionals and working with broader political reforms. We do this through ILAC's network of legal professionals, Bar Associations and other non-governmental organisations.

Strategic focus

1. To enhance the capacity of justice sector institutions, bar associations and their members to address public demands for accountability and justice in accordance with international standards.
2. To influence international policy and practice in rule of law reform in conflict-affected countries.



As a consortium, ILAC is well positioned to harness its members' efforts in aligning their priorities with SDG16+. ILAC draws on its assessments and in-country programmes to identify how to further promote access to justice under SDG16.3 and concomitantly accountable institutions under SDG 16.6. With 2019 being the first year for a review of SDG 16, ILAC has been active in pushing for a broader remit of the framework for how the rule of law is defined at the national and international levels. It has lifted its programme work to show that institutions are front and centre in bringing about access to justice for all.



How we work



Rule of Law and Justice Sector Assessments

We provide independent and specific recommendations on how legal institutions can uphold the rule of law and ensure people's access to justice.



Programmes

We develop and coordinate programmes to respond to identified rule of law challenges.



Policy Dialogue

We build on our work on the rule of law to influence policy and practice in rule of law reform in conflict-affected countries.

Our Vision

Equal access to justice for all.

Our Mission

To rapidly respond to and assess the needs of the justice sector in conflict-affected and fragile countries and help strengthen the independence and resilience of justice sector institutions and the legal profession.

80 legal member organisations and experts representing over 3 million legal professionals worldwide.

” We partner with judges, lawyers, prosecutors and court administrators from around the world. Together, we work to strengthen the independence and effectiveness of legal and judicial institutions and empower legal professionals working in these institutions.

Foreword

As a rule of law consortium, ILAC draws on its global network of experts to support justice sector reform in the regions where our members work and builds on its assessments and programmatic work to inform policy dialogue on the rule of law. This year, the COVID-19 pandemic heavily affected people's access to justice across the globe and in turn the way we work to promote and strengthen the rule of law. The repercussions of the global health crisis on the rule of law have shown that ILAC's mandate to strengthen justice sector institutions and access to justice in conflict-affected and fragile states is as important as ever. Despite the constraints on our usual ways of working brought on by the pandemic, ILAC has maintained its momentum in terms of programmes and assessments, embracing the opportunities provided by electronic access and dialogue when appropriate.

We are proud to have completed an assessment of the justice system in Syria in spite of travel restrictions. The pandemic has also forced us to rethink our planned programmatic activities. Due to our innovative members and partners and their potent readiness for change, we have been able to continue our programmatic work in Syria and throughout the MENA region as well as

our engagement in Latin America and the Caribbean.

As can also be read in this report, ILAC has continuously sought knowledge and engaged in policy dialogue on the effects of the pandemic on the rule of law and access to justice, in particular in the MENA region and across Latin America and the Caribbean, where the pandemic has significantly affected the progress of SDG16. We believe this work to be equally important in order to continue to develop the ways in which we address the challenges to the rule of law across the globe.

This year, ILAC welcomed Legal Action Worldwide and Mr. Fernando Peláez-Pier as new members of the consortium, both unanimously elected at our 2020 Annual General Meeting. Our new members will enable ILAC to be even better positioned to address some of the most pressing rule of law challenges in the countries where we work.

As we write this report, it is clear that we have learned a lot about the pandemic and its effects on the rule of law over the past year, including how to continue to strengthen the rule of law under a global health crisis. We look forward to another year of working with our members across our global network and in tandem with our national partners in strengthening the rule of law in conflict-affected and fragile settings.



PHOTO: ILAC

Elizabeth Howe
ILAC President



PHOTO: ILAC

Agneta Johansson
ILAC Executive Director

Dear friends and colleagues

It will be with a heavy heart that I throw off my presidential mantle. My tenure as President has been thoroughly rewarding, fascinating and instructive, but of course it is time to move on and pass the baton to my successor, who will be able, I am sure, lead ILAC onwards and upwards.

Little did I think when I started my first job as a junior prosecutor in England in 1980, that I would become President of an International NGO based in Sweden devoted to supporting fractured justice system in post conflict and fragile jurisdictions.

I have worked with some amazing and clever people, those within ILAC and our membership as well as many I have encountered in the countries I have visited. Agneta's position as Executive Director is a balancing act between the realities of running an office, dealing with human resources as well as budgetary challenges and importantly ensuring ILAC is delivering its mandate; all of which she has accomplished admirably. We have enjoyed a healthy and constructive professional and personal relationship, generally of the same mind, but naturally not always!

One of my ILAC highlights was joining the Rule of Law Assessment team in Libya in 2013, not long after hostilities had ceased (temporarily). This was something of a baptism of fire for me, as I had never been to a country so recently at war. I had rather naively thought that asking multiple questions might be rather tedious, on the contrary it was fascinating and I believe that my experience as a frontline prosecutor paid dividends in lending credibility to my involvement.

As Chair/President of ILAC for the past 6 years plus, much of my time has been occupied strengthening our governance processes to persuade sponsors, primarily SIDA that we are a safe collection of hands and also building connections with our membership, which is the main capital of this organisation.

The assessment and programme work over the last 6 years has been intense and varied, from MENA to Cuba, from Palestine to Syria – and more, and there is no doubt that ILAC has made a difference in these places, I have seen it for myself.

There is more to be done, as the Mid-Term Review commissioned by Sida this year confirmed, it is a continuous process of change and improvement.

Urgent funding needs, as with all our organisational members, is a constant, but we also need to satisfy ourselves that we are correctly positioned within the international legal development field and whether we are making the best use of the richness within our membership and our other resources. I hope our strategy review will help us articulate where that should be and where we are heading.

I do however strongly believe, and I found echoes of this when I went to Liberia in 2019 to help finesse the Rule of Law assessment there, that we bring through our membership participation a very practical and operational perspective which renders our perceptions and outcomes convincing and grounded, and we must not lose that.

COVID-19 has been a pernicious curse to the world and it is a sadness for me, in countless respects to be coming to the end of my term as President whilst its effects are still so real and tragic.

As you can see from this Annual Report, ILAC staff and many members have worked tirelessly to ensure a constant output, despite the restrictions.

I am optimistic that we shall be able to welcome back some normality for our 20th anniversary AGM in Stockholm next year and that I shall be able to meet many of you in person for a double celebration.



PHOTO: ILAC

Elizabeth Howe
ILAC President

ILAC in the world

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA (MENA)

ILAC's MENA Programme ensures equal access to justice and enhances public trust in the judiciary through strengthening the effectiveness of institutions and by promoting human rights and transitional justice. The MENA Programme has projects in Algeria, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia.

Members: ABA ROLI, IBAHRI, NCSC, PILPG, RWI

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CUBA

ILAC's Cuba Programme supports achieving sustainable development and strengthening the rule of law in Cuba through legal trainings, partnership building, professional exchanges between Sweden and Cuba and within the region.

Members: IBA, RWI, Swedish Bar Association

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GUATEMALA

ILAC published a follow-up rule of law assessment in Guatemala which examines the state of the country's justice sector after the closure of CICIG. The report includes recommendations on how the international community can continue its support to strengthen the rule of law in Guatemala.

Members: Cyrus R. Vance Center and The Law Society of England and Wales

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LAC REGION

ILAC published a report which describes how measures to manage the COVID-19 pandemic have challenged the judiciary. The report provides recommendations on how governments can respond in the short and long term to ensure that the judiciary can continue to guarantee access to justice, while protecting judicial independence, during a protracted crisis such as the COVID-19 pandemic.

Member: Cyrus R. Vance Center



SYRIA

ILAC's Syria Programme strengthens access to fundamental justice structures, with an emphasis on empowering the Syrian legal profession to promote the rule of law as well as the right to legal identity and housing, land, and property (HLP).

Members: IBAHRI, IBJ, CEELI Institute



ILAC's projects in 2021



ILAC members' headquarters

Middle East and North Africa



Middle East and North Africa – Improving access to justice



Promoting human rights and effective institutions

In the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, ILAC engages with national partners in context-specific projects to improve access to justice, strengthen the rule of law and enhance public trust in institutions.

In Tunisia, ILAC's collaboration with the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) has resulted in improved court administration, with a primary focus on Tunisia's Administrative Tribunal and its efforts to decentralise and increase access to justice. The critical functions of caseload management and accountability in decision-making have been improved. This has been achieved through strategic and incremental institutional reform, by upgrading and streamlining internal administrative processes, IT integration and communication with justice seekers. In 2020, we continued to support measures to improve the reception and orientation of court users, lawyers and the public. ILAC also supported the development of an integrated case and record management application, to track case activity, consolidate statistics, and to enable monitoring of open and archived cases. The system was approved for roll-out to all chambers by the First President of the Administrative Tribunal in Tunisia. Taken together, these changes contribute to a more effective approach to court-user interactions and responsiveness to citizens' access to justice needs, both of which are illustrative of effective and more accountable practices in administering justice.

ILAC focuses on supporting young legal professionals in the early, formative stage of their careers. Together with American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative (ABA ROLI), we have partnered with the Lawyers' Training Institute, the Tunisian Bar and the Young Lawyers' Association to explore innovative and interactive teaching methods to prepare young lawyers to handle attorney-client relations and the state-of-the-art practices of working from a rights-based perspective.

The impartial application of economic, social and cultural rights is vital for meaningful reform in Tunisia. This is not only important to the justice sector, but also for the

prevention of social unrest. In partnership with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), ILAC and IBAHRI engaged with Tunisian administrative judges and lawyers on the justiciability and application of economic, social and cultural rights to ensure that all court decisions were made in accordance with the relevant international human rights instruments. In the final year of the programme, we will also engage with the vibrant Tunisian civil society to further strengthen respect for economic, social and cultural rights.

In its regional initiative, ILAC and the Raoul Wallenberg Institute (RWI) collaborate with judicial training institutes and law faculties in Algeria, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia. This initiative supports the integration of human rights education and teaching methodologies in higher education curricula, to promote the application of international human rights law standards in court.

In Libya, ILAC addresses the challenges of supporting legal professionals in ongoing armed conflicts and instability. Focusing on what is feasible and most effective given the context, we have continued our long-term commitment to raise awareness among people on their individual rights under international law. ILAC and ABA ROLI continue to support Libyan legal professionals to deliver public legal education on rights-based topics, through radio outreach and community consultations across the country. To prepare Libyan legal professionals for a future transition, ILAC and the Public International Law and Policy Group (PILPG) support awareness raising on transitional justice and conduct community needs assessments across the country. This includes engaging with Libyans on transitional justice processes and identifying which issue areas to prioritise, such as truth-seeking, institutional reform and matters of displacement.

MENA Programme summary

ILAC's MENA Programme is a continuation of our engagement in the region since 2012. The goal of the programme is to ensure equal access to justice and enhance public trust in the judiciary, through strengthening the effectiveness of institutions and by promoting human rights and transitional justice. The MENA Programme has projects in Tunisia and Libya, as well as a regional component with activities in Algeria, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia.

Cooperation

The programme is implemented together with the following ILAC members: the American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative, the National Center for State Courts, the Public International Law and Policy Group, the International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute, and the Raoul Wallenberg Institute for Human Rights and Humanitarian Law.

Partners

In addition to its member organisations, ILAC works closely with the OHCHR in Tunisia, the National Bar Association of Tunisia, Tunisian and Libyan civil society actors, as well as judicial and legal training institutes across the MENA region.

Goals

- Working in partnership to reinforce the administration of justice in the Administrative Tribunal of Tunisia.
- Improving the application of economic, social and cultural rights in court

proceedings and within justice sector institutions in Tunisia.

- Strengthening the integration of human rights education at judicial and legal training institutes across the MENA region.
- Supporting legal awareness campaigns for the public and community-level participation in transitional justice efforts in Libya.

Highlights

- Improving access to information to facilitate a more efficient and transparent court system for justice seekers, lawyers and the public in the Administrative Tribunal of Tunisia.
- Developing and approving an integrated case and record management application for roll-out to all chambers of the Administrative Tribunal of Tunisia.
- Several instances were recorded in which trained judges applied knowledge gained in the adjudication of cases and referenced the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) in their formal court decisions.
- Continuing legal awareness activities through community dialogue and radio programming, reaching 377 community activists and leaders in Libya. Topics ranged from violence against women, the impact of conflict on children and their rights, to the legal challenges in implementing international and national human rights during COVID-19.
- Reaching approximately 300 individuals through local consultations and community meetings to identify transitional justice needs in Libya.

Syria – Promoting the rule of law to set standards for the future

ILAC supports Syrian legal professionals in the administration of justice, enhancing their knowledge on relevant legal and transitional justice-related topics, while simultaneously strengthening their capacity to inform ongoing and future reconciliation efforts. ILAC coordinates its members' activities, building on common synergies and ensuring that principles of the rule of law remain a priority for the international community.

ILAC cooperates with its member organisation, International Bridges to Justice (IBJ), to support Syrian lawyers through capacity development, engaging justice stakeholders through knowledge exchanges and empowering local communities through legal awareness campaigns. In 2020, IBJ supported lawyers in north-western Syria to provide legal representation to more than 513 Syrians and facilitated 438 legal consultations, of which a significant portion were women, children and internally displaced people. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak, IBJ supported lawyers mobilised to reduce prison overcrowding and helped ensure that human rights standards were maintained during detention.

ILAC collaborates with the International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute (IBAHRI), to ensure that Syrian lawyers inside and outside the country can play an active role in engaging with UN human rights mechanisms to report and prevent violations. In 2020, Syrian lawyers based in Turkey participated in a workshop on accountability. Participants analysed and mapped legal and non-legal strategies for enhancing accountability, considering recent developments in Syria. Participants also examined how the Syrian legal community in Turkey could coordinate its efforts to engage with human rights mechanisms and more effectively report human rights violations.

Legal identity

ILAC continues to give priority to people's lack of access to legal identification documents and to housing, land and property rights, since these are critical livelihood issues for large parts of the Syrian population. In line with SDG 16.9 and the provision of legal identity for all, ILAC held a dialogue session in January 2020 with Syrian and international organisations to address some of the main challenges and needs on the ground in Syria, and to explore preliminary recommendations on how the international community could best contribute to efforts that put the Syrian people at the forefront. Given the political and security situation in Syria, key recommendations in the short term are to support Syrians in preserving their original documents and alternative documentation. UN human rights mechanisms could be critical avenues of advocacy to raise awareness among UN member states.

Housing, land and property rights

Housing, land and property (HLP) rights are front and centre in Syria, due to mass displacement of Syrians during the conflict, as well as disposessions and violations of rights before the conflict. It is critical to engage both Syrian legal professionals and professional groups from other sectors, to better understand how the complex issue of housing, land and property rights can be addressed – now and for the future.



ILAC's Discussion Paper, 'Resolving the Property Issue in Syria – Technically Possible, Politically Challenging and Central to Accountability', includes a set of recommendations for how international standards and practices can assist in remedying HLP issues in Syria. This involves both procedural and substantive remedies (for example, restitution and compensation). The paper also emphasises the importance of addressing the gender dimension of HLP violations. The history of structural social discrimination in Syria, excluding women from legally owning property, in combination with new roles and responsibilities resulting from the conflict, have placed women and the families they provide for in a vulnerable position. All processes aimed at addressing HLP violations must ensure women's participation.

Together with two of ILAC's members, the Central

and Eastern European Law Initiative (CEELI) and the International Bridges to Justice i.e. IBJ, ILAC has trained Syrian legal professionals inside and outside the country, to set HLP standards for a future Syria and to prepare Syrian lawyers to be able to protect the HLP rights of displaced Syrians. HLP is a highly politicised and complex environment, and a continuation of HLP violations is likely to have long-term negative implications on people's lives. The current justice systems are putting Syrians at a high risk of losing their housing, land and properties or, in some cases, even risking criminal charges and detention. In particular, the HLP rights of vulnerable groups, such as internally displaced people (IDPs) and women, are not equally protected by the current system. These groups do not enjoy equal protection under the law and, moreover, often lack the legal awareness and financial means to exercise their HLP rights.

Syria Programme summary

ILAC's Syria Programme builds on the achievements of our long-standing work in Syria. Since 2017, the programme has strengthened access to justice and institutional support for the provision of civil documentation, with an emphasis on empowering the Syrian legal profession to uphold the rule of law.

Cooperation

In 2020, the programme was implemented together with the following ILAC members: International Bridges to Justice, the International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute and the Central and Eastern European Law Initiative. Previous members in the programme include the Raoul Wallenberg Institute for Human Rights and the American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative.

Partners

In addition to its member organisations, ILAC works closely with Syrian partners, including the Syrian Judges Council, Syrian bar associations and Syrian legal professionals based inside and outside the country.

Goals

- Working with Syrian justice professionals to effectively engage with relevant international and national human rights and accountability mechanisms.
- Supporting Syrian justice sector professionals to perform their judicial duties and provide a framework to maintain their skills and knowledge.
- Establishing conditions for the provision of higher legal education to Syrian refugees in neighbouring countries.

A stylized map of the Middle East region. The landmasses are shown in a light gray color, while the surrounding bodies of water (Mediterranean Sea, Red Sea, Persian Gulf) are in a dark blue color. The country of Syria is highlighted in a distinct purple color, making it stand out from the rest of the map.

Highlights

- Launching an innovative mobile application which connects Syrians with lawyers to facilitate immediate access to legal counsel, as well as establishing a digital community of practice for Syrian lawyers.
- Supporting more than 100 Syrian legal professionals, of which 23 percent were women, on furthering the application of housing, land and property (HLP) rights, on engagement with human rights mechanisms for accountability, and on providing criminal defence representation in underserved jurisdictions.
- Providing 513 pro bono case representations and 438 legal consultations in north-western Syria.
- In response to the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak, Syrian lawyers mobilised to reduce prison overcrowding, and worked to uphold human rights standards during detention.



Latin America – Fostering the rule of law



CUAP SIN
NIÑOS INF. AQUI

Cuba Programme – Promoting sustainable development and the rule of law

ILAC believes that building partnerships for rule of law reform requires long-term commitment and adaptable programme implementation. Different contexts require different approaches, as well as an understanding that rule of law reform takes time.

Professional exchange on international commercial law

ILAC and the International Bar Association (IBA) support Cuba's legal community to foster sustainable economic development, by promoting a professional exchange programme on international commercial law. Since 2016, ILAC and its long-term national partner, the Organización Nacional de Bufetes Colectivos (ONBC), have identified a network of legal professionals from across the country for participation in the exchange programme. The collaborative partnership has resulted in expansion of the programme – for example, with an extra session on anti-corruption in 2020, covering topics on ways to define, classify and measure corruption, as well as international, regional and national instruments for investigating, punishing and preventing corruption. To date, 250 Cuban legal professionals have completed the course.

Trainings on clinical legal education

ILAC and RWI work to establish clinical legal education (CLE) as a new learning methodology in Cuba. CLE is a legal teaching method based on experiential learning which fosters the growth of knowledge, personal skills and values, as well as promoting social justice and improved access to justice at the same time. The project was initiated in 2020 by introducing CLE to law professors at several Cuban universities, including the University of Havana, and lawyers at the Cuban bar association, Organización Nacional de Bufetes Colectivos (ONBC).

Latin America and the Caribbean – ‘Justice in the Time of COVID-19’

With the COVID-19 pandemic heavily impacting justice administration and access to justice around the globe, ILAC initiated a series of reports to map the challenges to the justice system arising from the pandemic. The initiative is global and aims at drawing recommendations on how governments can ensure that the justice sector continues to guarantee access to justice during and after the COVID-19 crisis.¹

The first report in this series, ‘Justice in the Time of COVID-19: Challenges to the Judiciary in Latin America & the Caribbean’, was launched in December 2020. It draws on interviews with judges and research conducted by national partners in 13 countries in the region.* The report describes how measures to manage the pandemic have affected the judiciary. The impact of the pandemic on the judiciary across Latin America and the Caribbean ranges from a weakening of constitutional checks and balances to impairing justice delivery and access to justice. The report shows that as the executive and legislative branches assumed additional powers to respond to the health crisis, funds and resources were reallocated away from the judiciary. This has impacted its ability to deliver justice and, in some cases, has even placed judicial independence in question. Due process and fair trial standards have been adversely affected by the inability to hold trials in person and the use of new digital justice tools, which also raise questions around data security. The ‘digital gap’ observed in the region – with weak connectivity and uneven use of digital means – threatens access to justice, even bringing it to a standstill in some countries. Yet, there are also examples from the region where the judiciary has been provided with adequate resources and has been able to efficiently use digital justice tools to deliver justice.

*The countries covered in the report were: Argentina, The Bahamas, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, The Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Haiti, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, and Trinidad & Tobago.

¹ In 2021, the COVID-19 report series continues to analyse the impact of the crisis to access to justice for vulnerable groups in Libya, Palestine and Tunisia.



Cuba Programme summary

Since 2013, ILAC has supported work towards sustainable development and strengthening the rule of law in Cuba. The ILAC Cuba Programme does so through trainings on clinical legal education (CLE), partnership building and regional professional exchanges, as well as exchanges between Sweden and Cuba.

Cooperation

In 2020, the programme was implemented together with the following ILAC members: the International Bar Association, Raoul Wallenberg Institute for Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, and the Swedish Bar Association.

Partners

In addition to its member organisations, ILAC works closely with the following partners: Organización Nacional de Bufetes Colectivos, Unión Nacional de Juristas de Cuba and the People's Supreme Court of Cuba.

Goal

Cuban legal professionals have a greater awareness and understanding of the demands of working towards economic and legal reform in an international setting.

Highlights

- Adding a new project to establish CLE in Cuba.
- Introducing CLE as a learning methodology to the Cuban legal context.
- Implementing an exchange on anti-corruption for Cuban lawyers.

ILAC's engagement in Latin America & The Caribbean

- Publishing a report, 'Justice in the Time of COVID-19: Challenges to the Judiciary in Latin America & the Caribbean', as part of the COVID-19 report series.
- The report draws on interviews with judges and research conducted by local counsel from Argentina, The Bahamas, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, The Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Haiti, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, and Trinidad & Tobago.
- The report identifies good practice, trends and gaps in how governments and the judiciary itself have responded to the crisis in the region.



Guatemala – ‘A Window of Opportunity’

In 2020, ILAC launched a rule of law assessment report, ‘A Window of Opportunity: Support to the Rule of Law in Guatemala’. The report examines the state of Guatemala’s justice sector, following the closure of the International Commission against Impunity in Guatemala (CICIG) the previous year. The report examines how recent threats against the justice sector have reversed much of the progress made to strengthen the rule of law during CICIG’s existence. It also highlights the urgency of the situation in the run-up to CICIG closing and the need for new multilateral cooperation agreements to combat corruption, strengthen judicial independence and prevent further rule of law backsliding. With a new executive taking office in 2020, the report concluded that the international community must seize the window of opportunity to re-engage with Guatemala in combating corruption.

The assessment was coordinated by ILAC and was a collective effort between ILAC and its member organisations, the Law Society of England and Wales and the

Cyrus R. Vance Center for International Justice of the New York City Bar Association.

The report was followed up by several policy dialogue engagements, including cross-sector dialogues through webinars and roundtables and a series of policy briefs on Guatemalan judicial independence and judicial nominations reform. Building on ILAC’s findings and recommendations, as well as on national demand, in 2021 ILAC will be supporting judicial independence, transparency and anti-corruption efforts through two new initiatives. The first will launch a tracking tool that monitors legal complaints filed against legal professionals and human rights defenders, as the filing of such complaints is used as a tactic to intimidate judicial administration in the country. The second project will promote a regional dialogue platform and police dialogue efforts to strengthen the rule of law and anti-corruption efforts in Colombia, Guatemala and Mexico.



ILAC's engagement in Guatemala

- Publishing a rule of law assessment report, 'A Window of Opportunity: Support to the Rule of Law in Guatemala'.
- The report concludes that the international community must seize the window of opportunity to re-engage with Guatemala in combating corruption. This will require finding new and effective models of development cooperation, to ensure more sustainable ways of strengthening the rule of law.
- Promoting policy dialogue on rule of law reform, including cross-sector dialogues through webinars and roundtables and a series of policy briefs on Guatemalan judicial independence and judicial nominations reform.

Supporting SDG16+

ILAC supports the achievement of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly SDG16 on peace, justice and strong institutions in the countries where it has long-standing partnerships through its members. SDG16 is a goal in and of itself, and a key enabler for other goals in the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) framework. Effective, inclusive and accountable institutions are key to reducing corruption, guaranteeing respect for human rights and ensuring equal access to justice. Further, SDG16+ underscores the importance of the quality of governance and transparent and accountable justice institutions as preconditions for reaching development goals on poverty, gender equality, hunger, health and education.

In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic caused severe setbacks on SDG16 achievements in many places across the globe. From the outset of the crisis, ILAC and its members have monitored and documented how measures to manage the pandemic have had destructive impacts on the functionality, effectiveness and even the independence of judiciaries across the regions where ILAC works. In Latin America and the Caribbean, and in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, emergency declarations and extraordinary measures have been employed. These have had adverse effects on the judiciary and people's basic rights and freedoms, including their access to justice. These developments have been tracked and documented in several ILAC Policy Briefs and Discussion Papers. Here, we have also provided recommendations for relevant actors and authorities on how to avoid further erosion of the rule of law, while combating the health emergency of COVID-19.

ILAC also continued to explore new avenues for strengthening SDG16 under the challenges of COVID-19. Beginning in November 2020, ILAC engaged as a thematic partner on Accountable Governance in the World Justice Challenge, facilitated by our member, the World Justice Project. The World Justice Challenge is a global competition to identify, recognise and promote



good practice and high-impact projects and policies to protect and advance areas of the rule of law most affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. As a thematic partner, ILAC assisted with promoting the challenge, reviewed submitted applications under this theme and participated in the finalist selection committee.

ILAC will continue to support the advancement of SDG16 and SDG16.3, namely, to promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all, in particular through a prioritised focus on SDG16.6, the development of effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels, by 2030.

Stockholm Human Rights Award

Pioneering lawyer, pro-democracy campaigner and devoted civil rights activist, Hina Jilani, was awarded the Stockholm Human Rights Award of 2020. Ms Jilani has always been a fearless advocate for women's rights and has an outstanding record of establishing pioneering initiatives and engaging in activities to advance women's rights, in Pakistan and worldwide.

In 1980, she founded Pakistan's first all-female law firm to provide legal aid to women. The scope of her practice grew to include legal education, research and protection from exploitation. The same year, she established the Women's Action Forum, a campaign group that advocated for women's rights and challenged the discriminatory laws with which she had grown up. Today, she continues to be at the forefront of the fight for human rights, among other things currently serving as President of the World Organisation Against Torture, Co-Chair of the World Refugee Council and Co-Chair of the International Task Force on Justice. It was most timely to endow the Stockholm Human Rights Award to Ms Jilani this year, as the UN Women Peace and Security Agenda celebrates its 20-year anniversary.

Due to this year's circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic, the planned prize ceremony at the Swedish Bar Association in Stockholm was cancelled. Ms Jilani will receive her award at the prize ceremony in 2021.

The Stockholm Human Rights Award is given to an individual, and/or organisation, for outstanding contributions to human rights and the rule of law.



PHOTO: PRESS PHOTO

Hina Jilani, lawyer, pro-democracy campaigner and devoted civil rights activist

Past recipients of the Stockholm Human Rights Award:

2019: David Miliband and the International Rescue Committee (ICR)
2018: Judge Thomas Buergenthal
2017: International Criminal Court
2016: Mary Robinson
2015: Prince Zeid Ra'ad Zeid Al-Hussein
2014: B'Tselem

2013: Professor M Cherif Bassiouni
2012: Thomas Hammarberg and European Roma Rights Centre
2011: George Soros and Aryeh Neier
2010: Navi Pillay
2009: Richard Goldstone

Governance & Membership

ILAC Member Organisations

American Bar Association
www.abanet.org

Arab Lawyers Union
www.alu1944.org/Sections/Home

Association Internationale des Jeunes Avocats
www.aija.org

Bar Association of India
www.barindia.in

Bar Council Malaysia
www.malaysianbar.org.my

Bar Council of England and Wales
www.barcouncil.org.uk

Canadian Bar Association
www.cba.org

CEELI Institute
www.ceeliinstitute.org

Center for Justice & Accountability
https://cja.org

Council of Bars and Law Societies of the EU
www.ccbe.org

Danish Bar Association
www.advokatsamfundet.dk

Faculty of Advocates
www.advocates.org.uk

Finnish Bar Association
www.asianajajaliito.fi

French National Bar Council
www.cnb.avocat.fr

German Bar Association
www.anwaltverein.de

Hong Kong Bar Association
www.hkba.org

Inter-American Bar Association
www.iaba.org

International Association for Court Administration
www.iaca.ws

International Association of Prosecutors (Stichting Treasury)
www.iap-association.org

International Association of Women Judges
www.iawj.org

International Bar Association
www.ibanet.org

International Bridges to Justice
www.ibj.org

International Commission of Jurists
www.icj.org

International Criminal Court Bar Association
https://www.iccba-abcpi.org

International Foundation of the ROL and the Independence of Lawyers and Judges

International Judicial Academy
www.ijaworld.edu

International Legal Foundation
http://theilf.org

International Senior Lawyers Project
www.islp.org

Japan Federation of Bar Associations
www.nichibenren.or.jp

Law Society of England and Wales
www.lawsociety.org.uk

Law Society of Scotland
https://www.lawscot.org.uk

Law Society of South Africa
http://www.lssa.org.za

Legal Action World Wide
www.legalactionworldwide.org

Magna Carta - Human Rights Network International

National Center for State Courts
www.ncsc.org

New York Bar Association - Vance Center of International Justice
www.nycbar.org

Norwegian Bar Association
www.advokatforeningen.no

Organization of Commonwealth Caribbean Bar Association

Palestinian Center for Human Rights
www.pchrgaza.org

Pan African Lawyers Union
www.lawyersofafrica.org

Public International Law and Policy Group
www.publicinternationallawandpolicygroup.org

Raoul Wallenberg Institute
www.rwi.lu.se

RCN Justice & Democratie
www.rcn-ong.be

Siracusa International Institute for Criminal Justice and Human Rights
www.siracusainstitute.org

Swedish Bar Association
www.advokatsamfundet.se

Tunisia Bar Association
www.avocat.org.tn

Union Internationale Des Avocats
www.uianet.org

World Justice Project
www.worldjusticeproject.org

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ILAC Annual General Meetings

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2019
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2020
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Annual Accounts

INCOME STATEMENT (Footnote 1)		2020-01-01 2020-12-31	2019-01-01 2019-12-31
Operating Income			
Membership fees		80 805	100 686
Contributions	(Footnote 2)	6 500	9 627
Grants	(Footnote 2)	29 845 818	34 241 960
Other income	(Footnote 2)	1 987 814	-
<i>Total operating income</i>		31 920 937	34 352 273
Operating Expenditure (Footnote 3, 4)			
Purpose costs		-26 782 693	-31 072 635
Administrative costs		-3 032 085	-3 209 065
<i>Total operating income</i>		-29 814 778	-34 281 700
Operating result		2 106 160	70 573
Result from Financial Income & Costs			
Financial income	(Footnote 5)	2	-
Financial costs	(Footnote 6)	-10 013	-4 137
Banking costs		-21 031	-34 194
<i>Total result from financial income & costs</i>		-31 042	-38 331
Result		2 075 120	32 242

*The International Legal Assistance Consortium's financial reporting currency is Swedish Krona (SEK)

BALANCE SHEET		2020-12-31	2019-12-31
ASSETS			
Financial Assets			
Long-term securities	(Footnote 7)	2 992 819	2 874 719
Short-term Assets			
Advances to partners	(Footnote 8)	5 819 969	15 019 601
Other receivables		436 645	371 196
Pre-paid expenses	(Footnote 9)	145 497	160 628
Total short-term assets		6 402 111	15 551 425
Cash and Bank Balances		5 941 511	10 618 934
TOTAL ASSETS		15 336 442	29 045 078

EQUITY AND LIABILITIES		2020-12-31	2019-12-31
Equity (Footnote 10)			
Capital brought forward		1 005 005	972 762
Year-end result		2 075 120	32 242
		3 080 124	1 005 003
Current Liabilities			
Account payables		45 367	272 310
Liabilities not used grants (Footnote 11)		10 428 233	26 310 038
Tax liabilities		35 864	1 650
Other liabilities		912 730	319 068
Accrued expenses	(Footnote 12)	834 123	1 137 009
Total Current Liabilities		12 256 316	28 040 075
TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITIES		15 336 442	29 045 078

FOOTNOTES

1 Accounting Principles

Applied accounting principles are in accordance with Swedish law and approved practices.

Applied Accounting Principles

Income

Income is accounted for based on the amount to be received. Grants are accounted for based on the principle of revenue recognition. Hence a grant is considered as a debt until expenses occur to be covered by the grant.

Programme Costs for Partner Organisations

Disbursement to Partner Organisations is considered as a claim until the required reporting has been received from the Partner. It will, once reporting is received, be accounted for as programme costs.

Receivables and Liabilities

Receivables and Liabilities are individually accounted for as the amount to be received or reimbursed.

Exchange Rate

Receivables and Liabilities in any foreign currency are, with the exception of claims to Partner Organisations, recalculated to SEK based on the exchange rate from the last day of the fiscal year.

2 Contributions and Grants	2020	2019
Contributions		
Public	6 500	9 627
Grants		
Sida CORE	7 464 753	8 067 369
Sida MENA	12 647 508	14 360 157
Sida Syria	6 910 939	9 915 370
GiZ	839 564	-
Sida Cuba	1 572 692	1 393 382
Other public grants	1 683	-
Other NGOs	408 678	505 682
	29 845 818	32 241 960
Other income		
Other NGO/agency	1 987 814	0

Other income for 2020 is partly about excess funds from completed projects and accrued interest from bank where it has been established that there is no obligation to repay.

3 Staff Costs		2020		2019	
Number of Staff, Gender					
Women		9,5		6,0	
Men		4,4		7,1	
Total		13,9		13,1	
Gender Board of Directors and Management					
		2020-12-31		2019-12-31	
		Total	Women	Total	Women
Board Members		7	3	7	4
Senior Management Team		3	1	4	3
Salaries, Fees and Payroll Taxes		2020		2019	
Salaries and fees					
Board members and Secretary General (SG)		1 046 219		1 061 171	
Other employees		6 287 884		5 836 684	
Total salaries and fees		7 334 103		6 897 855	
Payroll taxes		1 963 594		2 106 187	
Pension premiums to board members and SG		340 381		339 196	
Pension premiums to other employees		488 114		487 264	
Pension premium tax		200 993		200 499	
Total salaries, fees and related benefits		10 327 184		10 031 000	

4 Operational Leasing

The current operational leasing at ILAC is mostly for office rents and rental cars. The total expenditure for operational leasing 2020 amounted to 783 360 (796 320) SEK.

	2020	2019
Future operational leasing commitments		
Within 1 year	771 120	756 000
1–5 years	1 220 940	441 000

5 Financial Income

	2020	2019
Interest	2	-

6 Financial Costs

	2020	2019
Interest	102	31
Exchange rate losses on short-term assets	9 911	4 106
	10 013	4 137

7 Long-term Securities

	2020	2019
Opening acquisition value	2 874 719	2 797 569
Acquisition	118 100	77 150
Realisation	-	-
Closing acquisition value	2 992 819	2 874 719

8 Advances to Partners

	2020	2019
Advances to Partners per programme		
MENA (Sida)	4 727 721	10 866 449
Cuba (Sida)	287 870	-
Syria	622 824	-
Syria (Sida)	181 554	4 153 152
	5 819 969	15 019 601

9 Pre-paid Expenses	2020	2019
Pre-paid rents	65 545	63 000
Other expenses	79 952	97 628
	145 497	160 628
10 Equity	2020	2019
Opening balance	1 005 005	972 762
Year-end result	2 075 120	32 242
Closing balance	3 080 125	1 005 005
11 Liabilities not used Grants	2020	2019
SIDA CORE	1 947 294	1 412 048
SIDA MENA	5 763 231	13 410 739
SIDA Syria	816 175	7 727 114
GiZ	966 410	-
SIDA Cuba	935 123	1 807 815
	10 428 233	26 310 038
12 Accrued Expenses	2020	2019
Salary for vacation	661 597	476 032
Other accrued expenses	172 526	314 174
	834 123	790 206
13 Pledged collateral and contingent liabilities	2020	2019
Deposit Office Enskede	126 000	126 000

ILAC IS A GLOBAL rule of law consortium based in Sweden, providing technical assistance to justice sector actors in conflict-affected and fragile countries.

ILAC's mission is to rapidly respond to and assess the needs of the justice sector in conflict-affected and fragile countries, and help strengthen the independence and resilience of justice sector institutions and the legal profession.

Today, ILAC has more than 80 members including individual legal experts as well as organisations representing judges, prosecutors, lawyers and academics worldwide.



**International
Legal Assistance
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