



International
Legal Assistance
Consortium

Equal access to justice for all

ILAC ANNUAL REPORT 2021



Table of Contents

Improving access to justice in conflict-affected countries	4
Middle East and North Africa	6
Latin America	14
Covid 19 and access to justice	20
Stockholm Human Rights Award	22
Governance & membership	23
Annual accounts	25



**International
Legal Assistance
Consortium**

Stockholmsvägen 21,
122 62 Enskede, Stockholm, Sweden
Phone: +46 8 545 714 20

© ILAC, 2022

Graphic Design: Global Reporting

Cover photo: Gaza, IYAD ABED/BLUE PRESS/GAMMA/Eyedeas Presse

Print: EMP, Stockholm, 2022

Foreword

Dear friends and colleagues. 2021 has been a reframing year for ILAC. As much of our programme funding wound-down and we navigated global challenges from the pandemic, we took pause to review and re-evaluate with our members ILAC's continuing effectiveness in an ever-evolving development landscape. That review showed us that our members see great value in the Consortium.

After twenty years together, we can count a number of significant successes, ranging from working with Haitian law students to release thousands of pre-trial defendants to helping establish Afghanistan's first independent bar association to giving the international community an understanding of what constitutes justice during Syria's ongoing civil war. Whilst there is much to celebrate on ILAC's twentieth anniversary, our members agreed that it was timely for us to reassess how we conduct our business, how we define and evaluate our effectiveness and how we communicate our work. We recognise that whilst ILAC, on paper and in action, has been a vibrant and representative Consortium, both geographically and in respect of the variety of legal expertise we can count on, we could do better. In particular we should concentrate our efforts on what we do best by maximizing the deployment of our practical expertise and professional peer-to-peer approach, providing more precise and operationally focused analysis and response, spreading ourselves less thinly, and making our voice heard more powerfully within the international community.

We agreed on a new direction to pivot our efforts and distinguish ILAC as a premiere global resource that effectively maximizes our vast and varied legal expertise to help colleagues strengthen justice institutions after conflict or during a fragile period. Our unique brand is our Consortium. Our signature value is our coordinated cross-professional and cross-jurisdictional legal expertise, responding to genuine needs in accordance with our guiding principles. ILAC's recommendations will carry the expert weight of our Consortium and will thus have greater credibility and traction. We will continue to operate in close partnership with local colleagues and development actors so our actions and recommendations are coherent, useful and relevant to the needs

identified. We will also build a better sense of community and shared resource around our Consortium – amplifying the work and advocacy of members in consensus with ILAC's mission. Lastly, and most importantly to our future, we will make a concerted effort with the help of our members, to expand our donor base in 2022 to address the very real funding challenge that we face.

The world continues to face monumental challenges in many of the places where ILAC is committed and engaged. We are looking to support justice sector colleagues in Afghanistan, we are coalescing members around their response to the war in Ukraine and we will continue to support justice sector colleagues in Tunisia as they face the first real test to the rule of law since the Arab Spring.

During these past two years facing a pandemic, ILAC's output has maintained. In 2021 alone, ILAC, disseminated a follow-on assessment of the justice sector in Syria and continued to issue a series of reports about access to justice amid COVID-19.

You can read more in the following report, but some of this year's programme highlights include:

How we are building on our outstanding results in Tunisia (p. 8)

The continuation of our support to the Syrian legal community and our focus on remedying the chaos the conflict has brought to Housing Land and Property Rights in Syria (p. 10).

A practical route to securing the integrity and independence of justice actors in Colombia, Guatemala and Mexico (p. 16).

We look forward to meeting many of you at our 20th Anniversary AGM and celebration in May in Stockholm.



PHOTO: IBA

Mark Ellis
ILAC President



PHOTO: ILAC

Agneta Johansson
ILAC Executive Director

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 20 years, ILAC has carried out rule of law assessment missions and initiated legal reform programmes in 19 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. 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.



MENA – Access to Justice and Enhanced Public Trust in Institutions



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 2021, ILAC concluded an 8-year programme in the MENA region, covering 8 countries with a particular focus on Tunisia and Libya. The programme aimed at:

- Addressing the breakdown in trust between citizens and judiciary;
- Strengthening justice sector institutions; and
- Preparing Libyan civil society and justice sector actors for an eventual post-conflict transition programme inclusive of in-country assistance, engagement and network-building

The programme included the following activities:

- Improving the administration of justice and that the rationale behind legal decisions and cases are made available to the Tunisian public. The programme empowered counterparts to test reforms and innovate to overcome inefficiencies under four thematic areas: (1) administrative organization, (2) court-user relations, (3) hearing, case, and records management, and (4) automation.
- Improving the application of economic, social and cultural rights (ESCR) in Tunisia throughout court proceedings and within justice institutions. Particular attention was given to the right to equality, non-discrimination principles, and the need to strengthen the role of lawyers in advocating for and protecting human rights and raising civil society awareness of those rights.
- Capacity building in interactive teaching methodologies, the programme included the creation of an interactive e-learning platform, and

- Promoting the integration of human rights education across the MENA region, collaborating with judicial training institutes and law faculties in Algeria, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia.

In Libya, alternative justice paths and mechanisms were identified by ILAC's national partners. With this in mind, ILAC conducted the following activities:

- Supporting the delivery of public legal education on rights-based topics through radio outreach and community consultations through its national partners; and
- Promoting community-level participation in transitional justice efforts with the aim of addressing the non-recurrence of human rights violations, including awareness raising on transitional justice and conducting community needs assessments throughout the country.

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 was implemented together with the following ILAC members: the American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative (ABA-ROLI), the National Center for State Courts (NCSC), the Public International Law and Policy Group (PILPG), the International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute (IBAHRI) and the Raoul Wallenberg Institute for Human Rights and Humanitarian Law (RWI).

Partners

In addition to its member organisations, ILAC works closely with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (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.

Six key outcomes of the MENA programme:

1. Tunisian Court clerks have better mastery of various communication skills, which promotes improved relations between the Administrative Court and court users.
2. Tunisian lawyers and judges apply international law and constitutional protection mechanisms to enforce economic, social and cultural rights in their own practice, influencing jurisprudence on economic social and cultural rights in the Administrative Tribunal.
3. Judicial training institutes in the MENA region are able to integrate international human rights standards within teaching courses.
4. Tunisian lawyers have increased their knowledge of interactive teaching and training methodologies and have passed on knowledge about human rights to colleagues in an interactive way in Tunis and the regions,
5. Human rights defenders managed to increase the awareness within their communities about human rights and freedoms in Libya.
6. Libyan members of transitional justice platforms are coming together in a network to work on reviewing transitional justice laws in Libya.

There is a continued need to support the strengthening of the justice system in Tunisia in 2022. With the ongoing constitutional crisis – the president assuming emergency powers in July 2021 and dissolving the supreme judicial council in February 2022 – ILAC will continue to support our member organisations and partner institutions as they protect their independence during political uncertainty. This will form an important part of ILAC's remit into the immediate future.

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 underpinning the rule of law remain a priority for the international community. ILAC cooperates with its member organisations, International Bridges to Justice (IBJ), the International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute (IBAHRI), and the Central and Eastern European Law Initiative (CEELI) to support Syrian lawyers through capacity development, engaging justice stakeholders through knowledge exchanges, empowering local communities through legal awareness campaigns and ensuring 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.

Legal identity

ILAC continues to give priority to people's lack of access to legal identification documents and of housing, land and property rights, since these are critical livelihood issues for large sections of the Syrian population. This objective aligns with SDG 16.9 and the goal of the provision of legal identity for all. Given the uncertain political and security situation in Syria, key recommendations in the short term are to support Syrians in preserving their original documents and substitute documentation.

Three key outcomes between 2014 and 2021:

1. ILAC-supported documentation centres have issued 334,687 substitute civil documents between 2014 and 2018, which allowed people to obtain individual statements, birth certificates for their children, registrations of marriages and divorces, and death certificates.

2. Between 2017 and 2021, more than 200 legal professionals in Syria and neighbouring countries enhanced their knowledge and capacity on international legal standards in a number of key areas, including housing, land and property rights, application of universal jurisdiction, UN human rights mechanisms, accountability standards and criminal defence.
3. More than 1,425 persons accused of crimes have been provided with legal protection services between 2017 and 2021, through representation in the north-west region, and qualified pro-bono lawyers have provided 1,831 legal consultations for those who are among the most vulnerable in the same region.

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 disposessions and violations of rights before the conflict. It is critical to engage both Syrian legal professionals and professional groups from other sectors, in order to better understand how the complex issue of housing, land and property rights can be addressed – now and for the future.

Together with two of ILAC's members, the Central and Eastern European Law Initiative (CEELI), and the International Bridges to Justice (IBJ), ILAC has trained Syrian legal professionals inside and outside of Syria to set HLP standards for a future Syria, and to prepare Syrian lawyers to be able to protect the HLP rights of displaced Syrians.

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 of the country.

A stylized map of the Middle East region, with landmasses in light gray and bodies of water in dark blue. The country of Syria is highlighted in a solid purple color, located in the eastern part of the map, bordered by the Mediterranean Sea to the west and the Red Sea to the south.

Highlights

In 2021, ILAC and its members:

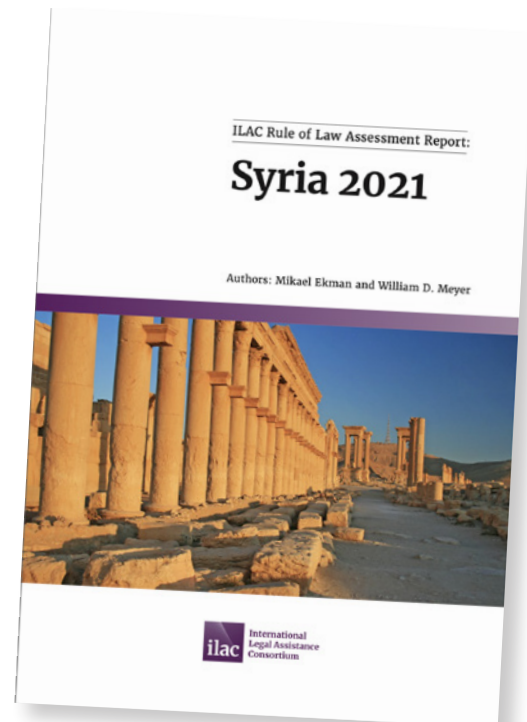
- Developed the Housing, Land and Property Legal Needs Assessment (HLP LNA) to evaluate Syrian lawyers' knowledge, capacities, and skills on HLP rights and issues in order to identify the gaps and needs.
- Developed a HLP Defender Manual, which provides a resource for justice stakeholders working on HLP issues, with the aim to strengthen lawyer's capacities to better respond to and manage HLP disputes.
- Developed ten eLearning Modules, available in the JusticeHub Syria mobile app, to serve as capacity building curriculum available for lawyers and other justice actors to strengthen their capacity at their own pace and time. The mobile app has during the project also come to serve as a legal resource hub on HLP.

ILAC Rule of Law Assessment Report: Syria 2021

In 2021, ILAC launched a rule of law assessment report on Syria. The assessment was initiated following the long-term engagement of ILAC in the country to provide a better understanding of how the fragmented justice system is functioning after a decade of conflict.

Key conclusions of the assessment include:

- The judicial systems in all of Syria remain fundamentally authoritarian and fail to adhere to international rule of law standards.
- A significant part of Syria, primarily the areas controlled by the Assad government, has seen relatively few changes and continue to function in essence in the same way as before the 2011 uprising. The judicial systems do not meet international standards of independence and impartiality. The use of emergency courts, including for civilians, has continued.
- In areas outside of government control, judicial systems differ yet the problems are often the same; including lack of judicial independence, corruption, and unwillingness to implement newly adopted legislation and apply written law.
- The report encourages further dialogue on how Syrian legal professionals throughout Syria could use their limited influence to uphold the rights of individual Syrians to effective remedies, and how to create more unity across Syria between the fragmented justice systems, to prepare for a future Syria.



The Rule of Law Assessment Report: Syria 2021, was launched through targeted send-outs and social media campaigns as well as during an in-person event in Stockholm in December 2021, focusing on the role of legal professionals and civil society to strengthen justice and accountability within Syria. Wider dissemination of the report will follow in 2022.

Yemen: The Impact of the War on Yemen's Justice System

In 2021, ILAC together with member organisation Public International Law and Policy Group (PILPG), conducted a study into the rule of law in war-torn Yemen. The report “The Impact of the War on Yemen's Justice System”, was released in October 2021. The report describes how the conflict has led to further severe deterioration of Yemen's already weak state institutions and rendered the judicial system almost totally inoperative in certain areas. The system has fragmented along the lines of the various authorities in control of different areas of Yemen, creating a complex system of parallel formal legal structures. Additionally, in some places, informal legal structures involving a variety of local and tribal actors have become increasingly prominent in the absence of functioning state institutions. In other places, customary and tribal systems have been disrupted by the conflict, with the opposition efforts of many tribal leaders have been met with public insults, property destruction and even executions.

Key conclusions include:

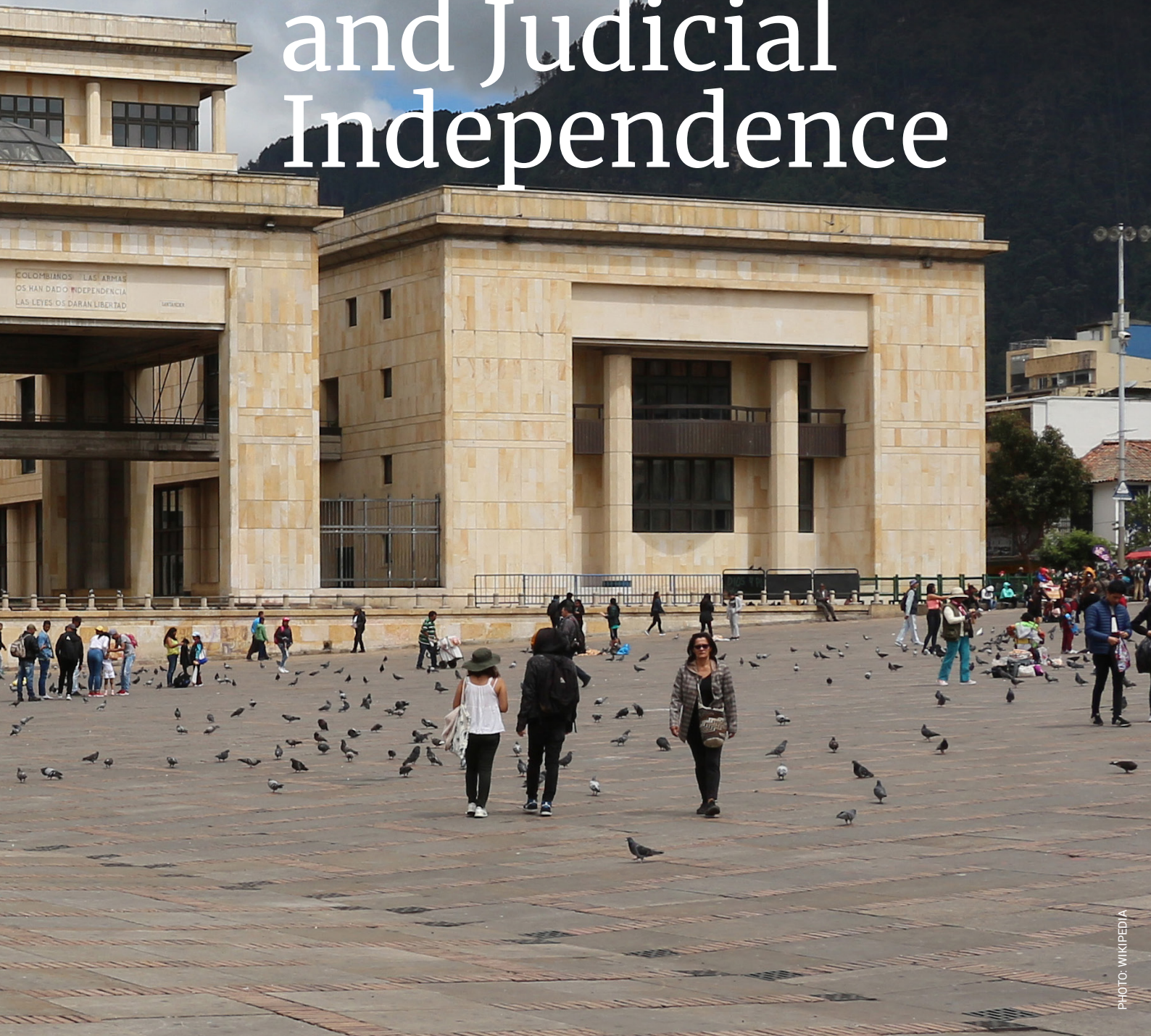
- Yemen's formal judiciary faces issues of fragmentation, severe damage to judicial infrastructure, security threats, demographic change, a growing case load, and weakened law enforcement authorities. Yemen's tribal structures and customary law practices have also been profoundly disrupted, particularly in areas under control of the armed group Ansar Allah (the Houthi movement). In other (mainly remote) areas, tribal leader 'sheikhs' may have gained more authority due to the lack of government presence.
- The war has contributed to an increase in disputes. There has been a significant rise in personal status cases, including domestic violence, divorce, and divorce settlement claims. The suspension of salaries and the loss of steady income for many Yemenis has

resulted in disputes over rent. Moreover, with many Yemenis displaced and having fled intense fighting, as well as land grabbing by militias, disputes over land and property ownership have increased. Cases of assault, rape, and murder have also risen due to ineffective security institutions and the absence of avenues for accountability caused by successive changes of authorities in control of some areas.





Latin America – Fostering the Rule of Law and Judicial Independence



Judges as Peacebuilders Regional Project – Colombia, Guatemala, Mexico

Responding to requests from judges in Latin America to create a regional platform for exchange and support, ILAC launched the dialogue project ‘Judges as Peacebuilders’ in 2021. Together with member organisations the International Association of Women Judges and Cyrus R. Vance Center for International Justice, the project gathered judges from Colombia, Guatemala and Mexico to support them in their fight against corruption and impunity and to uphold judicial independence. Three thematic areas were identified as particularly pressing:

1. Security of judges – responding to increased attacks and the vulnerability of judges, in particular judges dealing with high profile or corruption cases,
2. Anti-corruption efforts within the judiciary, and
3. The need to increase judicial diversity to enhance access to justice for all.

These themes were discussed in a series of digital roundtables in the autumn of 2021, followed-up by a series of in-person conferences in all three countries held in 2022. Around 40 judges and representatives of international, regional and civil society organizations participated in the project, including the UN Special Rapporteur on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers and a Commissioner from the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.

The function of the roundtables was threefold: first, they served as spaces in which partners came together nationally and regionally to probe their situation and challenges and develop recommendations and potential solutions that could be pursued; second, they served as a platform through which the participants can shed light on their cause and contribute to policy dialogue both regionally and

internationally; third, they allowed for peer-to-peer exchange.

ILAC also teamed up with member organisation the World Justice Project (WJP), to use disaggregated data from its Rule of Law Index on corruption, civil and criminal justice in Colombia, Guatemala and Mexico. The data which informs the Rule of Law Index, enriched the discussions of the roundtables, providing complementary views from general population polls and interviews with legal experts in the three countries. ILAC Latin America Working Group, including eight ILAC members, also provided support and guidance to the project throughout the year.

Funded by the Folke Bernadotte Academy, the project will result in the publication of three thematic reports in 2022. The reports will be used by national, regional and international partners to elevate the arguments and recommendations on judicial independence to a policy level and for advocacy purposes. The recommendations of the reports, both technical and policy-related, will also be developed with a view to informing the design of new initiatives to support the continued efforts by our partners in Colombia, Guatemala and Mexico to promote independence and integrity within their justice systems. The lessons learned by the project ‘Judges as Peacebuilders’ will also feed into ILAC and member organisations’ work on these topics in other regions.



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, and 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 National Organization of Cuban Lawyers Associations, Organización Nacional de Bufetes Colectivos de Cuba (ONBC), have identified a network of legal professionals from across the country for participation in the exchange programme. To date, 250 Cuban legal professionals have completed the course.

Training on Clinical Legal Education

Since 2020, ILAC and the Raoul Wallenberg Institute have developed 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. Target groups include law professors at Cuban universities, and lawyers at the ONBC. In 2021, the implementation of the programme consolidated four pilot projects on CLE, developed at the Faculty of Law at the University of Havana and paved the way to integrate Cuban universities from five other regions. More than 60 Cuban professionals participated in the CLE programme in 2021.



Guatemala Tracking Tool – Pushing Back against the ‘Criminalisation’ of Justice Operators

Following the escalating threats and legal complaints against independent Guatemalan judges in recent years, ILAC launched a pilot project in 2021 together with the Cyrus R. Vance Center for International Justice – “The Guatemala Tracking Tool”. This monitoring tool aims to improve understanding of the extent and nature of the intimidation and criminalisation of justice operators in Guatemala in order to formulate adequate responses. The project builds upon the findings and recommendations of the ILAC Rule of Law Assessment “A Window of Opportunity”, published in 2020.

ILAC will monitor ongoing criminal, civil, administrative and ethical complaints filed against a group of judges, prosecutors, and human rights lawyers in

Guatemala in order to gather and analyse quantitative and qualitative data on the intimidation and criminalisation of the justice operators. The collected information will also provide the basis for a discussion paper and recommendations to prevent the use of unfounded complaints against justice operators and others as a way of intimidating those affected and damaging the proper administration of justice in Guatemala. The discussion paper will be published in 2022.

In 2022, the tracking tool will go public and reveal the status of complaints against justice operators and human rights lawyers, based on the information collected throughout the monitoring phase of the project. The tool will be hosted on an internet page at a local organisation’s website, free of charge for public access.

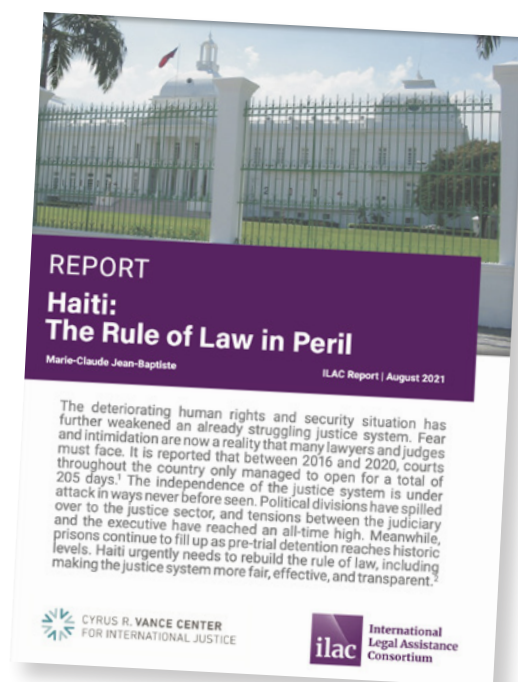


Haiti: The Rule of Law in Peril

In 2021, ILAC and member organisation Cyrus R. Vance Center for International Justice launched a study addressing the main challenges to the rule of law in Haiti. The report “Haiti: The Rule of Law in Peril”, concludes that the independence of Haiti’s justice system is under attack in ways the country has never seen before. Political divisions have spilled over to the justice sector, and tensions between the judiciary and the executive have reached an all-time high. The report presents a range of recommendations to both state and non-state actors.

Key conclusions include:

- The justice system is struggling to function due to a chronic lack of accountability, pervasive corruption, outdated laws and procedures, and political instability and rising violence affecting the judiciary and increasing barriers to access to justice.
- Civil society, legal and judicial professionals are calling for a “Haitian solution” to rebuild the rule of law through continued progress towards reforming the justice system, including speeding up the implementation of the legal aid program, legal reform to bring greater independence to the judiciary, and strengthening the bar associations.



The report was released in September 2021, during a webinar with key members of the Haitian justice system and legal profession as well as local civil society organisations.



COVID 19 and Access to Justice

The COVID-19 pandemic pushed ILAC to rethink and reinvent methods and activities to meet our vision of equal access to justice for all. The pandemic caused significant challenges in meeting Sustainable Development Goal number 16. Accordingly in 2021, ILAC worked together with our member organisations and partners in assessing access to justice for vulnerable groups during COVID-19, in Tunisia, Libya and Palestine. This research represents a 'litmus test' for how fair the delivery of justice is in the whole of society.

In 2021, ILAC released a series of three studies on "Access to justice for vulnerable groups in times of COVID-19" in Tunisia, Libya and Palestine respectively. In Tunisia, we worked with the American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative (ABA-ROLI). In

Libya, Public International Law and Policy Group and ABA-ROLI were in charge of the data collection. The Palestinian Center for Human Rights conducted interviews in Gaza and Al Haq did so in the West Bank. The COVID-19 pandemic provided an opportunity to remotely strengthen ties within the consortium and develop new methods on how to conduct legal analysis.

The studies on access to justice and the impact of COVID-19 confirmed that the justice gap has increased for vulnerable groups during the pandemic and suggests recommendations towards closing that gap. People who have been particularly affected include those subjected to domestic violence, those involved in divorce cases and associated financial maintenance, people on the move (internally dis-

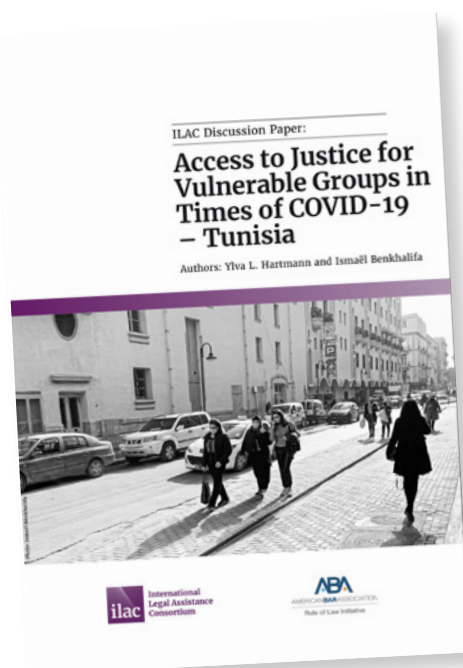
placed people, migrants and refugees), and people in detention.

Cross cutting recommendations for the way forward include:

- The importance of developing the digitisation of the justice system with due consideration of due process, rights to privacy and data security. Digitisation should always be accompanied by analogue efforts to increase access to legal information.
- The legal aid systems require more resources to meet the needs of vulnerable groups.
- Ensure respect for the right to legal advice, for instance by providing methods for lawyers to meet privately with their clients in detention without risk of infection, for example, in a private room with a plastic barrier or through an unmonitored phone call in a private room.
- Always ensure prioritisation of divorce cases and maintenance, even during pandemics and other emergency situations.
- Better equip and resource protective measures of gender-based violence.

The pandemic also evidenced how women and girls are disproportionately affected in times of crisis, for instance the significant increase of gender-based violence, which has been framed as ‘the Shadow Pandemic’. In 2021, ILAC published a policy brief examining the shadow pandemic of gender-based violence (GBV) and how the layers of crises brought on by COVID-19 have hardened the barriers for access to justice by women and girls for GBV crimes in conflict-affected and transitional settings. The brief also explores possible ways for improving justice for GBV survivors, building on the measures to address the increase in reported cases of GBV during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The pandemic accelerated the discussion of how to apply digital tools in justice mechanisms. Building on ILAC’s expertise on rule of law in fragile contexts, ILAC published a policy brief on the risks of digitalizing justice in Iraq, Libya, Palestine, Syria, and Yemen in 2021. ILAC will keep monitoring and addressing the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on access to justice and justice delivery as it impacts upon our capacity to advance ILAC’s mission.



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, in an online ceremony deferred until 6 December 2021.

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 in 2021 when the UN Women, Peace and Security agenda celebrated its twenty-year anniversary.

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



Hina Jilani, lawyer, pro-democracy campaigner and devoted civil rights activist in conversation with Mark Ellis, ILAC President.

Past recipients of the Stockholm Human Rights Award:

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

2013: Professor M Cherif Bassiouni
2012: Thomas Hammarberg and European Roma Rights Centre
2011: George Soros and Aryeh Neier
2010: Navanethem 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
www.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
https://asianajaliitto.fi/en/

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
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
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
www.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
www.lawscot.org.uk

Law Society of South Africa
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

Individual ILAC Members

Nasser Amin
Egypt

Sareta Ashraph
United Kingdom

Elisabeth Fura
Sweden

Alastair Cameron Abernethy
Scotland, United Kingdom

Richard Goldstone
South Africa

Ivana Hrdlickova
Czech Republic

Kabineh Ja'neh
Liberia

Karim Khan
United Kingdom

Ebenazar Kwaitoo
Ghana

Kadhim Lami
Iraq, United Kingdom

Nina Lahoud (BoD)
United States of America

Christopher Lehmann (BoD)
United States of America

Peter Maynard
Bahamas

Susan McCrory
Northern Ireland

Quinn O'Keefe
United States of America

Fernando Peláez-Pier
United States of America

Shelby Quast
United States of America

Keith Raynor
United Kingdom

Paul Rutledge
Australia

Nicholas Stewart
United Kingdom

Salli Swartz
France, United States of
America

Rhodri Williams
Sweden, United States of
America

ILAC Life Members

William D. Meyer
United States of America

Christian Åhlund
Sweden

Giuseppe Bisconti
Italy

Rodger Chongwe
Australia, Zambia
Hans Corell
Sweden

Francisco Diaz Rodriguez
El Salvador

Mike Enwall
United States of America

Paul Hoddinott
United Kingdom

Anne Ramberg
Sweden

Joan Winship
United States of America

Juan Bennazar Zequiera
Puerto Rico

Mark Ellis
United States of America

ILAC Annual General Meetings

2003
Stockholm, Sweden

2004
Cairo, Egypt

2005
New Delhi, India

2006
San Juan, Puerto Rico

2007
Stockholm, Sweden

2008
Rome, Italy

2009
Edinburgh, Scotland, United
Kingdom

2010
Accra, Ghana

2011
Lisbon, Portugal

2012
Stockholm, Sweden

2013
Prague, Czech Republic

2014
Tunis, Tunisia

2015
Helsinki, Finland

2016
Stockholm, Sweden

2017
Tokyo, Japan

2018
Stockholm, Sweden

2019
London, United Kingdom

2020
Online

2021
Online

ILAC Board of Directors

**1 January–1 September
2021:**
Elizabeth Howe
President of ILAC
United Kingdom

Nina Lahoud
United States of America

Christopher Lehmann
United States of America

Rolf Ring
Treasurer, Sweden

Raji Sourani
Gaza, Palestine

Kimitoshi Yabuki
Japan

**2 September–31 December
2021:**
Mark Ellis
President of ILAC
United States of America

Prashant Kumar
India

Nina Lahoud
United States of America

Christopher Lehmann
United States of America

Rolf Ring
Treasurer, Sweden

Lizette Robleto de Howarth
United Kingdom, Nicaragua

ILAC Advisory Council

American Bar Association

Sareta Ashraph
Individual member

Juan Bennazar Zequeira
Life member

CEELI Institute

**The Cyrus R. Vance Center
for International Justice**

Hans Corell
Life member

Mike Enwall
Life member

**International Association of
Women Judges**

**International Bar
Association**

**International Bridges to
Justice**

**The Law Society of England
and Wales**

**National Center for State
Courts**

Salli Swartz
Individual member

Swedish Bar Association

**Union Internationale des
Avocats**

Joan Winship
Life member

**Public International Law &
Policy Group (PILPG)**

**Members added to the
Advisory Council at the AGM
in September 2021:**
Nasser Amin
Individual member

Keith Raynor
Individual member

Raoul Wallenberg Institute

Annual Accounts

INCOME STATEMENT	(Footnote 1)	2021-01-01 2021-12-31	2020-01-01 2020-12-31
Operating Income			
Membership fees		70 299	80 805
Contributions	(Footnote 2)	5 224	6 500
Grants	(Footnote 2)	27 455 769	29 845 818
Other income	(Footnote 2)	-	1 987 814
<i>Total operating income</i>		27 531 292	31 920 937
Operating Expenditure (Footnote 3, 4)			
Purpose costs		-24 288 347	-26 782 693
Administrative costs		-3 108 083	-3 032 085
<i>Total operating income</i>		-27 396 430	-29 814 778
Operating result		134 862	2 106 160
Result from Financial Income & Costs			
Financial income	(Footnote 5)	-	2
Financial costs	(Footnote 6)	-35 968	-10 013
Banking costs		-23 371	-21 031
<i>Total result from financial income & costs</i>		-59 339	-31 042
Result		75 523	2 075 120

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

BALANCE SHEET		2021-12-31	2020-12-31
ASSETS			
Financial Assets			
Long-term securities	(Footnote 7)	3 080 124	2 992 819
Short-term Assets			
Advances to partners	(Footnote 8)	879 835	5 819 969
Other receivables		403 572	436 645
Tax claims		25 858	-
Pre-paid expenses	(Footnote 9)	112 650	145 497
Total short-term assets		1 421 915	6 402 111
Cash and Bank Balances		5 335 507	5 941 511
TOTAL ASSETS		9 837 546	15 336 442

EQUITY AND LIABILITIES		2021-12-31	2020-12-31
Equity (Footnote 10)			
Capital brought forward		3 080 125	1 005 005
Year-end result		75 523	2 075 120
		3 155 648	3 080 124
Current Liabilities			
Account payables		184 968	45 367
Liabilities not used grants (Footnote 11)		5 115 277	10 428 233
Tax liabilities		-	35 864
Other liabilities		148 076	912 730
Accrued expenses	(Footnote 12)	1 233 577	834 123
Total Current Liabilities		6 681 898	12 256 316
TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITIES		9 837 546	15 336 442

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	2021	2020
Contributions		
Public	5 224	6 500
Grants		
Sida CORE	8 423 818	7 464 753
Sida MENA	13 210 205	12 647 508
Sida Syria	776 883	6 910 939
Sida Cuba	1 482 094	1 572 692
GiZ Syria	2 672 344	839 564
GiZ Libya	18 608	-
FBA Latin America	791 635	-
Other public grants	2 522	1 683
Other NGOs	77 660	408 678
	27 455 769	29 845 818
Other income		
Other NGO/agency	-	1 987 814

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		2021	2020	
Number of Staff, Gender				
Women		7,1	6,0	
Men		4,7	7,1	
Total		11,8	13,1	
Gender Board of Directors and Management				
2021-12-31			2020-12-31	
	Total	Women	Total	Women
Board Members	7	3	7	3
Senior Management Team	2	1	3	1
Salaries, Fees and Payroll Taxes		2021	2020	
Salaries and fees				
Board members and Secretary General (SG)		1 024 841	1 046 219	
Other employees		5 410 177	6 287 884	
Total salaries and fees		6 435 018	7 334 103	
Payroll taxes		1 763 005	1 963 594	
Pension premiums to board members and SG		345 759	340 381	
Pension premiums to other employees		341 360	488 114	
Pension premium tax		166 695	200 993	
Total salaries, fees and related benefits		9 051 837	10 327 184	

4 Operational Leasing

The current operational leasing at ILAC is mostly for office rents and rental cars. The total expenditure for operational leasing 2021 amounted to 783 360 (796 320) SEK.

	2021	2020
Future operational leasing commitments		
Within 1 year	802 260	771 120
1–5 years	467 985	1 220 940

5 Financial Income

	2021	2020
Interest	-	2

6 Financial Costs

	2021	2020
Interest	-	102
Exchange rate losses on short-term assets	35 968	9 911
	35 968	10 013

7 Long-term Securities

	2021	2020
Opening acquisition value	2 992 819	2 874 719
Acquisition	87 305	118 100
Realisation	-	-
Closing acquisition value	3 080 124	2 992 819

8 Advances to Partners

	2021	2020
Advances to Partners per programme		
MENA (Sida)	710 148	4 727 721
Cuba (Sida)	169 687	287 870
Syria (GiZ)	-	622 824
Syria (Sida)	-	181 554
	879 835	5 819 969

9 Pre-paid Expenses	2021	2020
Pre-paid rents	66 855	65 545
Other expenses	45 795	79 952
	112 650	145 497
10 Equity	2021	2020
Opening balance	3 080 125	1 005 005
Year-end result	75 523	2 075 120
Closing balance	3 155 648	3 080 125
11 Liabilities not used Grants	2021	2020
SIDA CORE	1 523 477	1 947 294
SIDA MENA	1 678 026	5 763 231
SIDA Syria	-	816 175
FBA Latin America	908 365	-
GiZ Syria	-	966 410
GiZ Libya	552 380	-
SIDA Cuba	453 029	935 123
	5 115 277	10 428 233
12 Accrued Expenses	2021	2020
Salary for vacation	413 371	661 597
Other accrued expenses	820 206	172 526
	1 233 577	834 123
13 Pledged collateral and contingent liabilities	2021	2020
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
Consortium**

ILAC Secretariat
Stockholmsvägen 21,
SE-122 62 Enskede, Stockholm, Sweden
Phone: +46 (0)8-545 714 20
info@ilac.se
www.ilacnet.org