

Annual Report 2023



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ICJ Strategic Goals

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Introduction

Throughout 2023, the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) was at the forefront of major international legal initiatives, tackling a range of critical issues from crimes against humanity, the intricacies of the draft articles that led to the Ljubljana-the Hague Convention, consultations on the establishment of a Standing Independent Investigative Mechanism (SIIM), and targeted advocacy concerning human rights violations in various countries, including in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea). These efforts represent our comprehensive approach to enhancing global mechanisms for justice and accountability. Through a combination of advocacy at high-level international forums, contributions to treaty negotiations, and the fostering of strategic partnerships, the ICJ has sought to bridge significant accountability gaps in international law. Our work this year not only supported the advancement of legal frameworks but also ensured that discussions and policies around international crimes, investigative mechanisms, and human rights violations in geopolitically sensitive areas remained at the forefront of international efforts to uphold human dignity and the rule of law.

We continue to strengthen our partnerships at regional and national level, working with a range of human rights defenders, civil society organizations, members of the judiciary, governance actors, law enforcement and academia. As one example of our collaborative approach, we have been able to improve women's access to justice in six countries in Asia, following their adoption of the guidelines we co-developed with judges to reduce gender discrimination in court rooms and decision making. This will positively impact the lives of millions of women in the region far into the future. We have also launched a set of principles (8 March Principles) that address the harmful human rights impact of unjustified criminalization of individuals and entire communities (e.g. people living in poverty, drug users, sex workers, etc.) and promote reform of criminal laws so they are human rights compliant. The principles are now starting to be used to assist legislatures, courts, administrative and prosecutorial authorities, and advocates to address the harmful impact of criminalization of conduct and status. They are already being widely referenced by UN agencies, judiciaries and governments, and included in academic legal syllabi. We are currently developing a Practitioners Guide to enable judiciaries, law enforcement, law makers, CSOs and human rights groups around the world to adopt the principles and through them, domestic implementation and enforcement of international human rights law and standards.

Despite the successes we have been able to achieve, it has been a challenging year, as pushback against human rights norms has continued to increase. Our programs have contended with increased restrictions to carry out research, advocacy, strategic litigation, trainings, capacity building and expert dialogues. Nevertheless, over the course of 2023, we carried out activities in 35 countries. More than 3,300 participants took part in training and capacity-building activities, with our work reaching tens of thousands more indirect beneficiaries. Overall, 90% of planned activities were either completed or in progress, while 10% were delayed, largely as a result of changing operating environments. As ever, this work is able to continue as a result of the generosity and engagement of our donors, and the dedication of our talented and committed team members and partners.



The Commissioners

The ICJ Commissioners have continued to substantially contribute through formal and informal advice, peer review, and direct engagement in activities including fact-finding missions, capacity-building, legal analysis and advocacy and visibility campaigns, contributing a significant amount of time on a pro bono basis. At a global level, we conducted multiple consultations with stakeholders on developing and finalizing the 8 March Principles for a Human Rights-Based Approach to Criminal Law Proscribing Conduct Associated with Sex, Reproduction, Drug Use, HIV, Homelessness and Poverty. In this process, commissioners Justice Kalyan Shrestha and Dame Silvia Cartwright provided inputs on multiple drafts and endorsed the final version of the principles that were launched on 8th March 2022 at an HRC side event in Geneva.

ICJ Commissioner Reed Brody was the only representative of an international organization at the trial of Desi Bouterse in Paramaribo, Suriname on 20 December 2023, where Bouterse was finally found guilty of murders committed 40 years previously. Reed Brody spoke to multiple media outlets in Suriname, the Netherlands, the UK, France, Spain and global such as the Reuters, France 24, La Nacion, RFI etc., representing the ICJ in the media coverage of the event, and engaging with diplomatic missions. Reed has also been monitoring and advocating for other international accountability cases on behalf of the ICJ, including those in Gambia from the dictatorship of Yahya Jammeh and in Chad under Hissène Habré.

In Egypt, ICJ Commissioner Mazen Darwish has been providing advice to the working group of Egyptian lawyers and human rights defenders during the strategy meetings to discuss and strategize around the opportunities for use of extraterritorial jurisdiction or universal jurisdiction. Commissioner Darwish co-facilitated these meetings online and continues advising the lawyers on the suitability of their case for universal jurisdiction and the further preparatory work, particularly in terms of evidence gathering, required before filing a complaint in the country of interest. This working group successfully identified several victims of crimes under international law who reside abroad and have

expressed interest in bringing their case forward and engaging with available accountability mechanisms. With the assistance of Commissioner Darwish, the project team identified several stakeholders in the country of interest to help with key aspects in preparing for litigation under universal jurisdiction.

ICJ Commissioner Nahla Haidar El-Addal (Vice-Chair of the CEDAW Committee), has advised and supported the Asia team to implement its project on Women's Access to Justice for several years. In 2023, she continued to support the program by presenting on the gendered aspects of climate change and the various mechanisms to achieve climate justice at a Regional Consultation on the Adoption of the Bangkok General Guidance for Judges on Applying a Gender Perspective in South and Southeast Asia in March 2023. She also helped facilitate several sessions of the consultation. Nahla's experience working on women's human rights and her position on the CEDAW Committee has made her contribution to the project invaluable as she is respected by judges in the region. In addition, her presence at several national judicial dialogues in the Asia region as a presenter and facilitator has led to her being regarded as someone with whom judges feel comfortable to consult on issues they wish to bring up during the sessions.

In Nepal, ICJ Commissioner Kalyan Shrestha (Former Chief Justice of Supreme Court of Nepal), has been involved in Judicial Dialogues organized in different place and giving remarks and input the judges. ICJ Commissioner Justice Kalyan Shrestha is a strong advocate of Human rights in Nepal. He has been promoting March 8 principles in different forums. Utilizing his position, ICJ has conducted advocacy meetings with various judicial bodies and governmental agencies. Justice Shrestha actively participates in major events organized by the ICJ in Nepal, providing significant insights. Justice Shrestha acted as a resource person for a judicial dialogue and have been voicing the ICJ's stand on Transitional Justice in Nepal.

We have continued to coordinate closely with ICJ sections, particularly those in Norway, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Germany, Austria and Italy on a range of issues.

The International Commission of Jurists – European Institutions

The International Commission of Jurists-European Institutions (ICJ-EI) is a non-profit organization established in Belgium in 2012. As ICJ's sister organisation, the ICJ-EI shares its mission and vision to promote human rights through the rule of law. The ICJ-EI works to bring concerns of noncompliance with European and international human rights laws to the attention of institutions and bodies of the European Union and Council of Europe, and to advocate for the strengthening of standards and mechanisms for the protection of human rights at European level.

Through the EU-funded Rule of Law for Lawyers (ROLL) project, ICJ-EI held workshops in Brussels and Malta for legal practitioners from across the EU to develop strategies for safeguarding the independence of the judiciary through strategic litigation. Through these events, we provided a platform for lawyers and NGOs to share insights, case studies, and best practices in overcoming challenges to judicial independence within the EU. Participants engaged in an in-depth analysis of current threats, exploring litigation strategies and fostering a collaborative network to strengthen the judicial independence. The workshops have supported the ROLL project's objectives to uphold the rule of law and protect human rights within the EU. This project specifically targets eight EU Member States: Poland, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, Czechia, Slovakia, Spain, and Malta.

In 2023, ICJ-EI launched the Judicial Independence Podcast as part of the ROLL Project. The Podcast focuses on the challenges to the independence of the judiciary, access to justice, and the protection of human rights across the European Union. In 2023, five episodes were recorded and published. They included such topics as the main rule of law problems faced by EU Member States in recent years and the role of strategic litigation and international courts; The situation of the rule of law in Poland; Article 7 proceedings against Hungary and Poland; the Garzon v. Spain decision of the UN Human Rights Committee; and the situation of the rule of law in Hungary.

ICJ-EI condemned aspects of the agreement reached by the EU Member States and the European Parliament on the last five instruments from the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum, stressing that it will effectively strip away core human rights and refugee protections for persons from vulnerable populations.

ICJ-EI is finalising its model bench book on procedural rights for persons with disabilities who are suspects or accused of crimes. This model bench book will serve as a basis for project partners to create national bench books, which will help improve domestic implementation of international standards and enhance access to justice for defendants – persons with disabilities in the criminal justice process. We plan to publish a briefing paper on the instruments concerning accountability for crimes under international law committed in the course of the armed conflict resulting from the Russian military invasion of Ukraine.



ICJ-EI monitored a number of high-profile cases in Turkey, making a rule 9 submission before the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe *Selahattin Demirtaş (no. 2) v Turkey* group of cases. Demirtaş is a member of the Turkish Parliament arrested in May 2016 who continues to be held in prison. Besides a Rule 9 submission was made in the case of *Yüksekdağ Şenoğlu v Turkey*. We also prepared a submission in the case of *Osman Kavala* who continues to serve life imprisonment and in whose case the ICJ observed. The Programme has continued its consistent advocacy efforts in relation to the situation with the crisis with the judiciary in Hungary and Poland, calling for the use of Article 7 procedure in regard to the two countries.

We concluded the Using Law for Environmental Advocacy and Defence (U-LEAD) project in Turkey, initially launched in March 2021. Its goal was to create synergies between human rights and environmental defenders and between national and international stakeholders to enhance access to justice to protect the right to a healthy environment in Turkey through the use of human rights law. Key stakeholders described it as “a groundbreaking initiative” given its unprecedented focus on environmental legal issues and engagement of Turkey’s civil society. An endline survey demonstrated a significant increase in knowledge among lawyers and CSO legal practitioners, with 94% reporting enhanced capacity following workshops. The project has enabled both human rights and environment defenders to use international mechanisms more effectively to defend the right to a healthy environment.

OVERVIEW OF ICJ'S 2023 RESULTS

IN IMPLEMENTATION OF ITS STRATEGIC PLAN

REACH OF
ICJ'S
INTERVENTIONS

237

OUTPUTS WERE
DELIVERED BY THE ICJ
GLOBALLY AND
REGIONALLY IN OVER
35 COUNTRIES

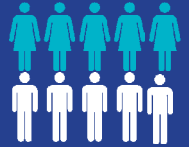
(ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES WERE IMPLEMENTED AT
GLOBAL LEVEL AND OUTSIDE THE SCOPE OF A PROJECT)



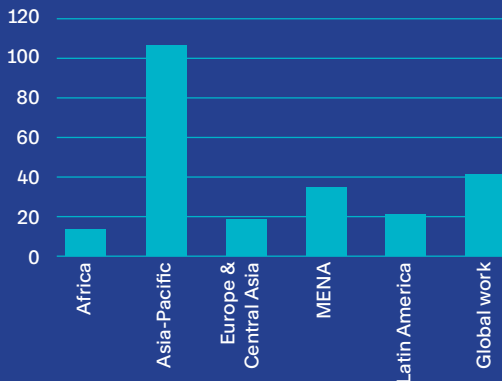
3300

JUDGES, PROSECUTORS, LAWYERS, HRDS,
CIVIL SOCIETY ACTORS, PUBLIC OFFICIALS
AND OTHERS TOOK PART IN ICJ'S
WORKSHOPS AND EVENTS

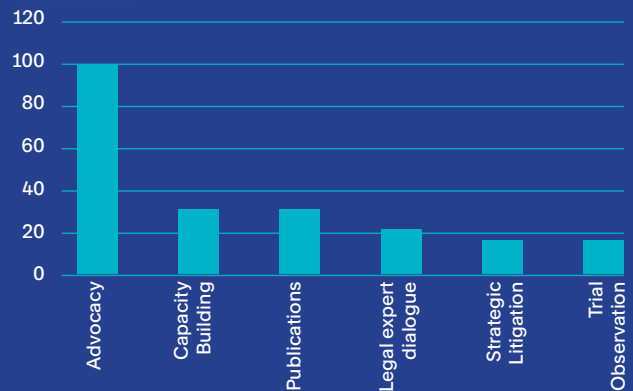
INCLUDING
54%
OF WOMEN



OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITIES
BY PROGRAMME



DIVERSITY OF WORKING METHODS
USED TO PROMOTE AND PROTECT HUMAN RIGHTS



2023 KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

ANALYSIS FROM RESULTS BASED MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

GLOBAL TARGETS ACHIEVEMENTS

12

INDICATORS TRACKED
AT REGIONAL LEVEL AND
AGGREGATED AT
GLOBAL LEVEL

83%

OF THE TARGETS
ACHIEVED OR
EXCEEDED

KEY RESULTS BY WORKING METHODS

PUBLICATIONS



60

ICJ PUBLICATION HAVE BEEN USED AS
ADVOCACY TOOLS TO SUPPORT, DEFEND
AND STRENGTHEN INSTITUTIONS,
INSTRUMENTS AND STANDARDS ON
RULE OF LAW AND HUMAN RIGHTS

ADVOCACY



9

ADOPTIONS OF ICJ RECOMMENDATIONS
TO STRENGTHEN AND DEFEND NATIONAL
INSTITUTIONS, INSTRUMENTS, STANDARDS

TRIAL MONITORING



32

INDIVIDUALS WHOSE FAIR TRIAL
RIGHTS HAVE BEEN BETTER
PROTECTED THROUGH ICJ TRIAL
OBSERVATION

STRATEGIC LITIGATION



14

LITIGATION ARGUMENTS SUBMITTED BY
THE ICJ WITH INTERNATIONAL, REGIONAL
AND NATIONAL COURTS AND BODIES THAT
HAVE BEEN ADOPTED

CAPACITY BUILDING



88%

OF TARGET GROUPS REPORTED AN
ENHANCED UNDERSTANDING OF
INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS
LAW AND INTERNATIONAL AND
REGIONAL MECHANISMS

LEGAL EXPERT DIALOGUE



89%

OF LEGAL EXPERT TARGETED REPORTED AN
ENHANCED ENVIRONMENT TO CONDUCT
THEIR OWN LEGAL WORK AFTER THE ICJ-
MODERATED EXPERT DIALOGUE

A YEAR IN REVIEW

ICJ supports the Bill decriminalizing adult sex work in **South Africa**, in a letter responding to an invitation from the South African Department of Justice

The ICJ launched the **8 March Principles** for a Human Rights-Based Approach to Criminal Law Proscribing Conduct Associated with Sex, Reproduction, Drug Use, HIV, Homelessness and Poverty

The ICJ launched a joint report with Amnesty International, The Taliban's war on women: The crime against humanity of gender persecution in **Afghanistan**

JANUARY

MARCH

MAY

FEBRUARY

APRIL

JUNE

The ICJ held an Expert Discussion on the monitoring and coordination of implementation of the UN Treaties in **Uzbekistan**

Six judiciaries from **Asia** commit to the adoption of the Bangkok General Guidance for Judges on Applying a Gender Perspective

Europe: The ICJ and its partners (Human Rights in Practice, Free Courts, aditus and Forum for Human Rights) organized a workshop on Institutional independence of the judiciary and autonomy of the prosecution service, in Brussels

Southeast Asia:
New ICJ report highlights discriminatory online restrictions against LGBT people

Colombia: 3 workshops were held on accountability and extrajudicial killings and torture cases with the support of the 1 University of Rosario

In South Africa, alongside the South African Human Rights Commission, the ICJ held two workshops pertaining to the rights of persons with disabilities

JULY

SEPTEMBER

NOVEMBER

AUGUST

OCTOBER

DECEMBER

Nepal: the proposed bill allowing government to withdraw criminal cases threatens justice and accountability. The ICJ calls on the government to withdraw or modify the proposed bill

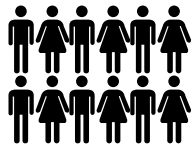
The ICJ submitted with a coalition of NGOs a report to the UN Committee Against Torture (CAT) to address **Egypt's** widespread and systematic use of torture as a tool for repressing political dissent and persecuting minorities

Suriname: the ICJ was the only international organization present to observe the final judicial proceedings in the case of of Desi Bouterse, former President who was convicted of the extrajudicial killings

STRATEGIC GOAL

1

DEFEND AND STRENGTHEN INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, INSTRUMENTS AND STANDARDS ON RULE OF LAW AND HUMAN RIGHTS



130

JUDGES, PROSECTORS, LAWYERS AND OTHER ACTORS PARTICIPATED IN ACTIVITIES ON THIS TOPIC



14

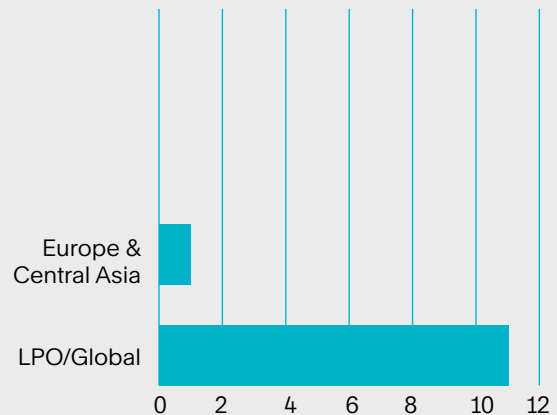
UPTAKE OF ICJ POLICY POSITIONS TO PROJECT INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND INSTRUMENTS

MOST USED WORKING METHODS

TO DEFEND AND STRENGTHEN INTERNATIONAL, INSTRUMENTS AND STANDARDS



ACTIVITIES BY REGIONAL PROGRAMME



6 PROJECTS FEEDING INTO THIS STRATEGIC GOAL

Defend and strengthen international institutions, instruments and standards on rule of law and human rights

Throughout this year, we have worked with international and local Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and Human Rights Defenders (HRDs), to advocate for States to become parties to global and regional human rights instruments, to implement these and other standards in national law and practice and to adhere to, cooperate with, and implement recommendations made by UN treaty bodies, Special Procedures and under the Universal Periodic Review (UPR). There were **14 uptakes of our policy positions in treaties, relevant court or tribunal judgements, human rights body resolutions, recommendations, guidelines, reports or publications to protect international human rights and justice institutions, mechanisms and instruments, including:**

- We submitted a complaint against Tunisia to the UN Human Rights Committee, highlighting ongoing concerns with respect to the country's implementation of and compliance with the provisions of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. The submission is now on the UN Committee's website and will be considered as part of its follow-up review procedure in 2024.
- Our submission on gendered disinformation to the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression, **was cited twice in the report she presented to the UN General Assembly's 78th session.** The Special Rapporteur's report also echoed several of our recommendations¹.
- An ICJ [submission](#) to the Human Rights Committee's examination of **Uganda's second periodic report** under the International Covenant on Civil and Political. The [HRC's recommendations to Uganda](#) adopted language from our submission.
- ICJ was one of two organizations invited by the Lesotho judiciary to give written inputs on draft rules pertaining to the accommodation of persons with disabilities in the Lesotho Judiciary. On 26 May 2023, [the Disability and Equity \(Procedure\) Rules](#) were brought into force, containing several of the recommendations by ICJ made in its submissions.
- Issues raised in our submission to the CEDAW Committee's review of the Philippines were reflected in the questions and concluding observations to the official delegation from the Philippines (see the full submission²).
- Information we provided is relied on in the report of the Independent Expert on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity on the impact of colonialism and decolonization (and on the continued formation and perpetuation of harmful social mores associated with sexual orientation and gender identity).

At each Human Rights Council Session in 2023, we made statements, and organized and participated in side events and negotiations on resolutions to influence decision making. Our contributions continue to be recognized by States and civil society as influential. As one example, we jointly hosted a side event with Asia Justice Coalition (AJC), Human Rights Watch (HRW), Global Justice Center (GJC) and Amnesty International (AI), on the future **Treaty on Crimes against Humanity**. With negotiations taking place in New York, we brought the developments squarely before the Geneva diplomatic and human rights community. Presenters included high level diplomats from the Gambia, Argentina and Germany along with the speakers from the GJC, AJC and ICJ.

We also noted substantial advances in standard setting and institution building in several other areas:

- We remain engaged in the difficult negotiations for a **universal legally binding instrument on business and human rights** (including through participation in the deliberations of the UN Open-Ended Working Group session in October 2023).
- We increased advocacy for the proposed treaty on **Crimes against Humanity**, under discussion at the UN General Assembly Sixth Committee, convening a side-event at the UN Human Rights Council.

¹ <https://www.icj.org/icj-makes-a-submission-focusing-on-the-gender-dimensions-of-disinformation-to-the-un-special-rapporteur-on-freedom-of-expression/>

² <https://www.icj.org/philippines-icj-makes-submission-to-the-committee-on-the-elimination-of-discrimination-against-women/>

- We continued consultations to advance ICJ's proposal for the establishment of a **Standing Independent Investigative Mechanism (SIIM)** to ensure effective accountability at the UN.

In 2023, **at least 60 ICJ publications were used as advocacy tools to support, defend and strengthen institutions, mechanisms, instruments and standards on rule of law and human rights.** We have developed learning products which are being used globally by our teams, partners and beneficiaries.

It was also an important year for us in our work to advance international law and standards through our own expert processes. We launched two sets of global expert standards and one key publication:

- *The 8 March Principles for a Human Rights-Based Approach to Criminal Law Proscribing Conduct Associated with Sex, Reproduction, Drug Use, HIV, Homelessness and Poverty*
- *Principles and Guidelines on Human Rights and Public Health Emergencies*
- *The Taliban's war on women: The crime against humanity of gender persecution in Afghanistan*

The 8 March Principles: a Human Rights-Based Approach to Criminal Law Proscribing Conduct Associated with Sex, Reproduction, Drug Use, HIV, Homelessness and Poverty

Criminal law is among the harshest of tools at the disposal of the State to exert control over individuals and ought to be a measure of last resort; however, globally, there has been a growing trend towards overcriminalization. In 2023, 115 countries still criminalize drug use, more than 130 criminalize HIV exposure, non-disclosure and transmission, and over 150 countries criminalize some aspect of sex work, while 67 countries still criminalize same-sex sexual activity.

In response to this, we used a highly consultative process to develop the **8 March Principles**, a framework for reforming criminal laws and ensuring their compliance with general principles of criminal law and international human rights law and standards, including criminal provisions on conduct associated with poverty, homelessness, sex, reproduction, drug use and HIV.

The Principles were launched on 8 March 2023 (International Women's Day) at a [side event](#) at the 52nd Session of the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva. It was organized by the ICJ, in conjunction with the OHCHR, UNAIDS, the World Health Organization, the UN Development Programme, the governments of Colombia, Luxembourg, and Switzerland, Amnesty



International, the International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute and the Global Commission on Drug Policy.

Throughout 2023, we have done a significant amount of outreach work to promote the Principles, resulting in significant uptake. **They have been endorsed by 29 experts and supported by Amnesty International, CREA, Global Health Justice Partnership of the Yale Law and Public Health Schools Yale University, Global Network of Sex Work Projects, HIV Justice Network, International Network of People who Use Drugs and Sexual and Reproductive Health Matters.**

We worked with a coalition of NGO partners on a number of cases concerning the criminalization of abortions which were before the European Court of Human Rights. Our third-party interventions provided evidence and analysis drawing on international human rights law, comparative European law and guidelines from the World Health Organization.

The position paper of the UN Working Group on Discrimination against women and girls, *Eliminating discrimination against sex workers and securing their human rights*, references the Principles directly. Section "4.4 International NGOs" reads as follows: "*Most recently, in 2023, the International Commission of Jurists issued the 8 March Principles for a Human Rights-Based Approach to Criminal Law Proscribing Conduct Associated with Sex, Reproduction, Drug Use, HIV, Homelessness and Poverty (known as Principles on human rights and decriminalisation).*"

Global launch of the Principles and Guidelines on Human Rights and Public Health Emergencies (PHE)

In January, we collaborated with the Global Health Law Consortium (GHLG) and the Brocher Foundation to host a final in-person [consultation with experts](#) following a year of regional consultations and in May, we published the [Principles and Guidelines on Human Rights and Public Health Emergencies](#), then carried out [a range of advocacy activities](#) to popularise the principles.

“Very well and thoughtfully researched. Excellent methodology making use of deliverables highly reliable and well-regarded.”

- A FEMALE LAWYER REPORTED.

The legal work is of highest quality, important to support organizations in applying those principles.”

-FEMALE UN-PERSONNEL ADDED.

Quotes extracted from an expert survey circulated late 2023, The focus of this survey was to capture feedback on ICJ's global work on standard setting and supporting international accountability mechanisms.

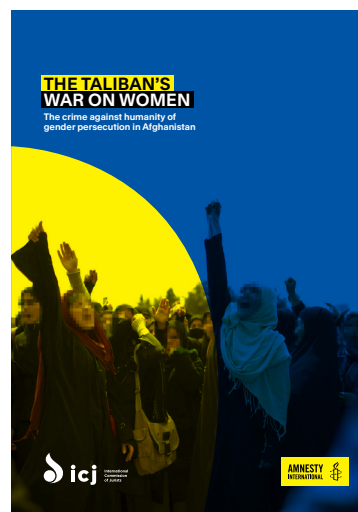
The principles, launched at a side event to the UN World Health Assembly in Geneva, provide guidance to governments and policy makers, jurists, public health professionals, human rights CSOs and other stakeholders on the application of human rights in the context of prevention of, preparedness for, responses to and recovery from public health emergencies such as those brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. They are now being promoted, with a commentary to be drafted in the coming year and will influence:

- Drafting of the proposed Pandemic Treaty under negotiation
- Adaptions of International Health Regulations.

We have also been carrying out work on standard setting on public health emergencies, particularly pandemics, including advocacy around the negotiations at the WHO on a Pandemic Treaty, and advocacy around WHO negotiations on revised International Health Regulations. In March 2023, we addressed Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health on the need to incorporate human rights in the Pandemic Treaty. We continue to participate in processes to develop a Pandemic Treaty and International Health Regulations as a member of the Civil Society Alliance for Human Rights in the Pandemic Treaty and with smaller coalition of leading human rights organizations (AI, HRW and GI-ESCR).

The Taliban's war on women: The crime against humanity of gender persecution in Afghanistan

In May, we launched a joint report with Amesty International, *The Taliban's war on women: The crime against humanity of gender persecution in Afghanistan*, with a widely attended side event on the report at the UN Human Rights Council, co-hosted with Forum-Asia, Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect, HRW, International Service for Human Rights (ISHR), OMCT, Open Society Justice Initiative and Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. We ran social media campaigns with AI to promote the report.



We also had high-level meetings with government delegations, including the United States and Germany. There was a strong response from world media, with more than 1600 mentions globally with a reach of 4.3 bn people worldwide in about 20 languages. Among others, the report was covered by global media including CNN, AP, Le Monde, DW, The Independent, BBC Persian, Al Jazeera, NPR, VOA and France 24. The ICJ and AI staff also did more than a dozen tv/radio interviews about the report.

Israel/Occupied Palestinian Territory advocacy: Immediately end attacks on civilians and civilian objects

Following the outbreak and escalation of attacks between Israel and Hamas on 7 October 2023 in the Israel and the Gaza Strip, we launched a series of legal and advocacy initiatives to end the violence, including four public statements:

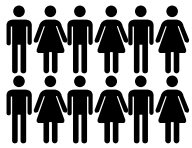
- [Attacks on Civilians](#);
- Attacks on Hospitals;
- the urgent need for an Immediate Ceasefire;
- [States' obligations to Prevent Genocide](#) under the Genocide Convention.

With Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch, we issued a [joint call](#) on 22 November to High Contracting Parties to the Geneva Conventions to support the call for a Conference with a view to ensuring compliance with international humanitarian law. The **final legal briefer was quoted in the South Africa submission of 29 December to the International Court of Justice**, in proceedings instituted against Israel in application of the Genocide Convention and request for provisional measures. **Para. 109 stated, “The International Commission of Jurists calling on third States “to take all reasonable measures within their power to prevent genocide in Gaza”** (referring to the ICJ's public statement dated 17 November 2023).

STRATEGIC GOAL

2

IMPROVE DOMESTIC IMPLEMENTATION AND COMPLIANCE



389

JUDGES, PROSECUTORS, LAWYERS AND OTHER ACTORS PARTICIPATED IN ACTIVITIES ON THIS TOPIC

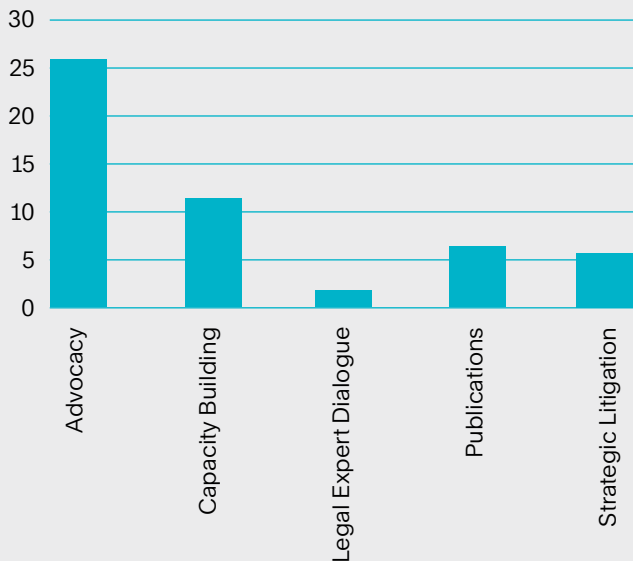


94%

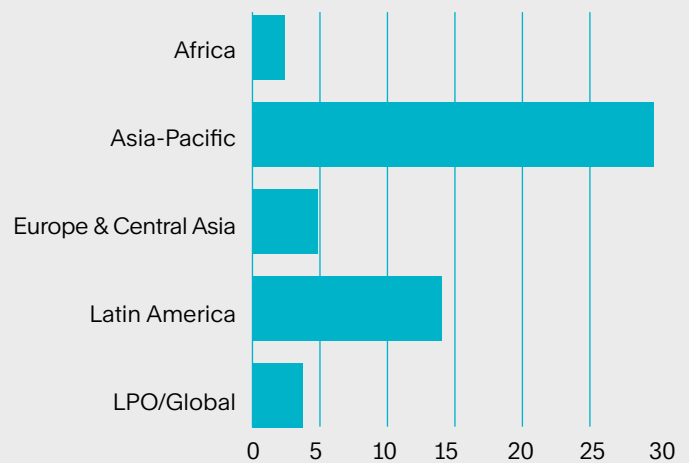
OF ICJ'S TARGET GROUP REPORTS QUALITATIVELY VERIFIED IMPROVEMENTS IN OR LACK OF REGRESS IN DOMESTICS IMPLEMENTATION AND COMPLIANCE

MOST USED WORKING METHODS

TO IMPROVE DOMESTIC IMPLEMENTATION AND COMPLIANCE



ACTIVITIES BY REGIONAL PROGRAMME



10

PROJECTS FEEDING INTO THIS STRATEGIC GOAL

Improve domestic implementation and compliance

We directly link our global work to the domestic level, ensuring States implement human rights-compliant laws, policies and practices. In 2023, we saw positive outcomes on advocacy for the reform of domestic laws, policies, and practices, with at least **9 adoptions or endorsements of our recommendations or positions to strengthen and defend national institutions, instruments, standards or resolutions on rule of law and human rights, in support of law and constitutional reform.**

Economic, Social and Cultural Rights: (ESCR) promoting the rights to decent work, an adequate standard of living, housing, food, water and sanitation, social security, health, and education

We took our global work on ESCR into domestic jurisdictions this year, including workshops on the right to education in Kenya, Nepal and Lesotho. We successfully supported litigation for the right to education in Nepal and built the capacity of a network of lawyers who have filed cases and are now mentoring a new cadre of lawyers to use litigation to advance the right to education. In Lesotho, we are published [a research report on inclusive education](#) for children with disabilities, based on field visits and interviews with schools across the country and other stakeholders in October 2022. In Kenya, following a workshop with a local community group in Mathare, Nairobi, in February 2023, we were asked to lead research on the availability of public education in Mathare and to support strategic litigation. We contributed amicus briefs to two cases in South Africa, the first related to informal waste reclaimers right to work, which received a positive High Court judgment - which the government is appealing, and the second on access to health-care for non-citizen women and young children who are currently denied this care.

From Legislation to Action: Effective Measures for Protecting Women and Children from Violence in Uzbekistan

In February 2023, we convened an International Expert Discussions on the “Monitoring and coordination of implementation of the UN Treaties in Uzbekistan: examples of CRC, ICESCR AND CEDAW”. The event addressed the implementation of the Concluding Observations of UN Treaty Bodies following State reporting procedures. Thirty-four representatives of State bodies, academia, Intergovernmental Organizations, and CSOs participated, the majority of whom were women. We held a second session in June which focused on *Effective Measures for Protecting Women and Children from Violence*. This was prompted by the recent enactment of a landmark law on the protection of children and women from domestic violence – a serious problem in Uzbekistan. We summarized the recommendations from the sessions and submitted them for consideration to key stakeholders in Uzbekistan, including the Supreme Court, other State bodies, international organizations, embassies, the EU Delegation, CSOs, HRDs.

As part of the Uzbekistan Judicial System Strengthening Project, we created training modules and seminar methodology for the country’s Supreme School of Judges (SSJ) as well as a briefing paper on Implementing Treaty Bodies’ Decisions in Uzbekistan. **The training modules represent a fundamentally new approach in the country to legal education.** They rely on authentic human rights texts, including UN human rights treaties, and the jurisprudence of the United Nations Treaty Bodies, a resource seldom used in legal curricula in Uzbekistan. This integration of legal texts and international decisions is a significant innovation for a conventional teaching method. By providing students direct access to primary sources, the modules offer an invaluable, practical insight into modern international law. This approach positions the SSJ at the forefront of innovation in legal education, preparing a new generation of judges with both theoretical and practical understanding of international law and human rights.

The Rights of Persons with Disabilities: Promoting the Use of Strategic Litigation

To address challenges faced by persons with disabilities, we have been advocating across African countries to implement the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), and to ratify and enforce the African Disability Rights Protocol the Protocol provides an additional layer of normative guarantees to persons with disability in Africa). In late 2022, we organized a workshop in Lesotho with the Centre for Human Rights at University of Pretoria to support the Lesotho Chief Justice to create judicial rules that aim to ensure persons with disabilities have effective access to legal processes. [The rules](#) have been enacted and became effective on 16 May 2023.

We have also been applying strategic litigation as part of our advocacy. In the [Blind SA v Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition](#) case, we made written and oral submissions to the South African High Court and the Constitutional Court. The case was related to the Copyright Act, which did not have provisions to allow the production and modification of literary materials to meet the needs of the visually impaired, blind, or those with any other reading disability. In September 2022, the Constitutional Court struck down the Copyright Act as it failed to provide exceptions to meet the needs of individuals with disabilities. Following this success, we [convened a workshop](#) in Kenya in October 2023 with partner organizations to identify potential areas for strategic litigation.

We submitted and supported organizations of persons with disabilities in submitting shadow reports to UN treaty bodies. We provided technical assistance to Kenyan organizations, helping them draft an alternative report to the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which was received and [published](#) by the Committee in July 2023. Likewise, in advance of the review of Lesotho by the UN Human Rights Committee in June 2023, we collaborated with partner organizations to submit a [detailed report](#) highlighting numerous human rights concerns, including the rights of persons with disabilities. We prepared a [joint submission](#) with Zambian organizations of persons with disabilities to the CRPD Committee (in March 2024) for the consideration of Zambia's report took place with a drafting workshop held in Lusaka in December 2023.

These reports have been crucial in highlighting human rights issues affecting persons with disabilities, informing the committees of the specific challenges faced by persons with disabilities and suggesting recommendations to address them.

With the South African Human Rights Commission, we held two workshops in South Africa on the rights of persons with disabilities (on access to transport and access to banking services respectively) in November 2023 as part of the ongoing process to support organizations of persons with

disabilities in South Africa in realizing their rights protected under the CPRD and the Africa Disability Protocol.

In Colombia, we held [a Latin American workshop](#) on the rights to access to justice of persons with disabilities, drawing together organizations and experts from across the continent to plan towards the full realization of CRPD rights.

Business and Human Rights: towards a legally binding instrument

We have continued our work begun over a decade ago on efforts to plug on of the largest existing gaps in international human rights law, namely the need for effective global legal regulation of the conduct of business enterprises in respect of their impact on human rights. We worked on advocacy throughout the year to ensure that a future treaty is comprehensive in scope and addresses effectively the legal liability of transnational companies and other business enterprises. We engaged actively at the eighth session of the Intergovernmental Working Group (IGWG) in October, mandated by the UN Human Rights Council, to elaborate a **legally binding instrument on business and human rights**. In March, we submitted comments to the Chair of the IGWG on the present draft.

We co-hosted an [international conference on 12 October](#) with Friedrich Ebert Stiftung to analyze national practices in order to increase support for positive elements of the draft treaty. The session reaffirmed the importance of a full treaty model, rather than a framework convention (being pushed for by certain recalcitrant States).

Protection of Rights in Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in the Mekong Region

The establishment and development of SEZs are central to the strategies of several Southeast Asian government in their efforts to expand infrastructure and attract foreign investment, including the Mekong region, spanning Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam. However, their establishment often undermines legal protections for human rights and the environment in many instances. Violations and abuses of human rights are commonly found in SEZs due to a lack of adequate legal protection or enforcement.

We have carried out a number of key advocacy initiatives, including submitting a [joint report](#) to the UN Human Rights Council Working Group for the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of China. This submission focused on credible allegations of human rights abuses involving Chinese business entities and state-owned enterprises in Southeast Asia, including in the context of SEZs. We also put in a [joint submission](#) to the UN Committee on ESCR on human rights concerns in Lao PDR, including those related to SEZs.



We held a [dialogue](#) for affected individuals and civil society actors to discuss human rights concerns arising from the implementation of Thailand's Eastern Special Development Zone Act B.E. 2561 (2018) which will contribute to the official consultation process during the evaluation of the Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC) Act by the Eastern Economic Corridor Office, the responsible agency tasked with conducting evaluation to the EEC Act every five years. We carried out a mission to Cambodia to gather information on the social, economic, and cultural impacts of SEZs on local communities to inform a UPR submission for Cambodia.

We have also supported the set-up of a network among CSOs, lawyers, and academics in the region to advocate for the better protection of rights in SEZs in the Mekong region.

Challenging attacks on the rule of law in Tunisia

In Tunisia, we have been implementing projects to:

- challenge attacks on the rule of law by enabling Tunisian civil society and justice sector actors to monitor, document and respond to democratic backsliding,
- achieve justice for gross human rights violations, supporting the ICJ's Global Accountability Initiative.

In 2023, we continued to convene the Rule of Law Coordination Group (RLCG), working with 14 other INGO. The RLCG worked on joint positions and advocacy actions, carrying out advocacy with the European Union (EU), the UN Human Rights Council (HRC), and with diplomatic missions in Tunisia, Geneva and Brussels.

The team drew the attention of the media the judiciary and called for specific actions to reverse decisions taken by the authorities, in an effort signed by 30 Tunisian and international organizations. The ICJ contributed to a [podcast episode](#) by a project partner released on 25 April on the crackdown on political opposition in Tunisia.

With other members of the RLCG and Tunisian organizations, we coordinated a joint social media action on 1 June, the one-year anniversary of President Kais Saied's summary dismissal of 57 judges. The [mini campaign](#) included coordinated publications of social media assets by all organizations in the group on [twitter](#) and Facebook. We continued strategic engagement with UN Human Rights Council Special Procedures, submitting individual cases and updates on pertinent developments to mandate-holders. We also monitored patterns of human rights violations and attended the trial of a prominent human rights defender and political activist, as well as the criminal prosecutions of prominent lawyers.

Lesotho: Magistrates and judges unpack their role in protecting and promoting the human rights of marginalized individuals and groups

In October 2023, working with the People's Matrix Association and Seinoli Legal Centre (SLC), we held a workshop for magistrates and judges in Maseru, Lesotho's capital. Drawing on the 8 March Principles for a Human Rights-Based Approach to Criminal Law Proscribing Conduct Associated with Sex, Reproduction, Drug Use, HIV, Homelessness and Poverty, the workshop increased the Lesotho judiciary's ability to apply a human rights-based approach in the application and enforcement of domestic criminal law. The central theme explored by participants was the profoundly negative impact of unjustified criminalization, especially for marginalized individuals and communities. Acting Chief Justice, Tšelisio Monapathi, emphasized the importance of the judiciary as the last line of defence for ensuring the protection of human rights.

Participants noted some positive legal developments in Lesotho that are consistent with international human rights law, including the repeal of vagrancy laws through the introduction of the 2010 Penal Code. In October 2022, the High Court of Lesotho, sitting as a Constitutional Court, declared section 32(a)(vii) of the 2003 Sexual Offences Act unconstitutional. The Court ruled that the provision, which imposes the death penalty on HIV-infected persons who commit sexual offences, was unconstitutional to the extent that it violated the rights to equality before the law and equal protection of the law, freedom from discrimination, and freedom from inhuman treatment as guaranteed by the Lesotho



Constitution. Participants, the majority of whom were magistrates, discussed measures the courts have used to promote and protect the human rights of marginalized groups.

In July 2023, the Lesotho National Federation hosted a training workshop with magistrates and prosecutors on access to justice for persons with disabilities and the 2023 Disability Equity (Procedure) Rules. Participants expressed concern that limitations continue to exist in relation to:

- the provision of accommodations for accused and witnesses at court;
- trends of discrimination within the wider criminal justice system, especially among the police.
- the need for ongoing human rights training for magistrates and other actors in the criminal justice system.

Tajikistan: round table on lawyers' effective use of international law and mechanisms

In 2023, we expanded our work with key rule of law and human rights stakeholders in Tajikistan, as part of a project increase the judiciary's capacity to apply international standards in court decisions. Working with the Supreme Court, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) Regional Office for Central Asia (ROCA), and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), we organized events on a number of human rights issues, including:

- the [independence and security of lawyers](#),
- [implementation of international law by judges](#)
- and [effective use of international mechanisms by lawyers](#).

The last was held in cooperation with the National Bar Association of Tajikistan and examined challenges in legal representation, particularly in cases involving allegations of torture. Participants emphasized the need to adhere to the Istanbul Protocol for assessing detainee treatment. We then published briefing papers (on [the judiciary](#) and [the legal profession](#)) summarising the discussions.

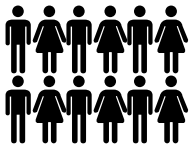
These events also resulted in the development of sets of recommendations. A notable outcome of was the adoption of recommendations, elaborated with the Tajik Bar Association, emphasizing the importance of sustained dialogue and partnership with international bodies to safeguard human rights.

Tajikistan's judiciary is now much better aware of and capable of applying international standards in court decisions. Our work resulted in a greater understanding of international law for Tajik judges and lawyers, and the practical implications of these standards for the rule of law and human rights protection. Sharing materials, such as the Compilation of Decisions by the UN Human Rights Committee regarding torture and ill-treatment cases related to Tajikistan, has been a significant step towards building capacity. The initiatives undertaken in 2023 have laid a solid foundation for continued work in the next year in Tajikistan.

STRATEGIC GOAL

3

**BOLSTER THE EFFECTIVENESS
AND INDEPENDENCE OF JUDGES
AND LAWYERS**



121

**JUDGES, PROSECUTORS, LAWYERS
AND OTHER ACTORS PARTICIPATED
IN ACTIVITIES ON THIS TOPIC**

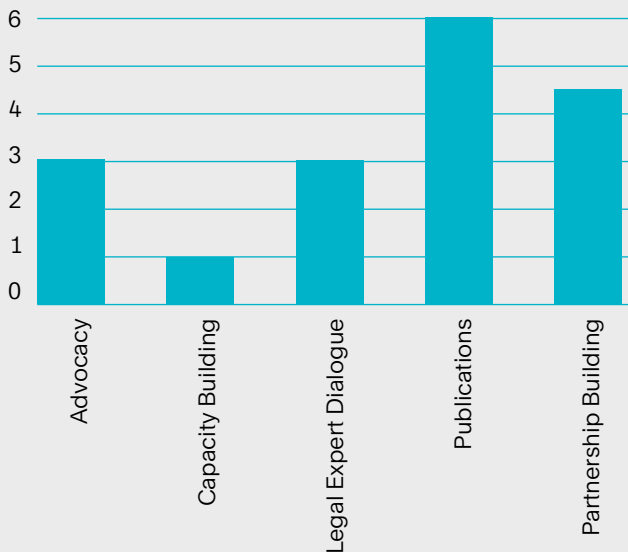


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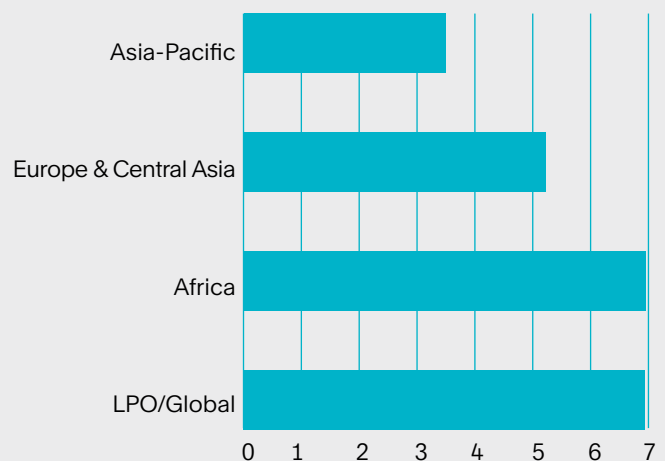
**OF JUDGES, PROSECUTORS, LAWYERS
AND KEY STAKEHOLDERS WHO
CONFIRM A LACK OF REGRESS OR AN
INCREASE IN THEIR INDEPENDENCE
AND ACCOUNTABILITY**

MOST USED WORKING METHODS

TO ENHANCE THE INDEPENDENCE OF JUDGES
AND LAWYERS



ACTIVITIES BY REGIONAL PROGRAMME



**3 PROJECTS FEEDING INTO
THIS STRATEGIC GOAL**

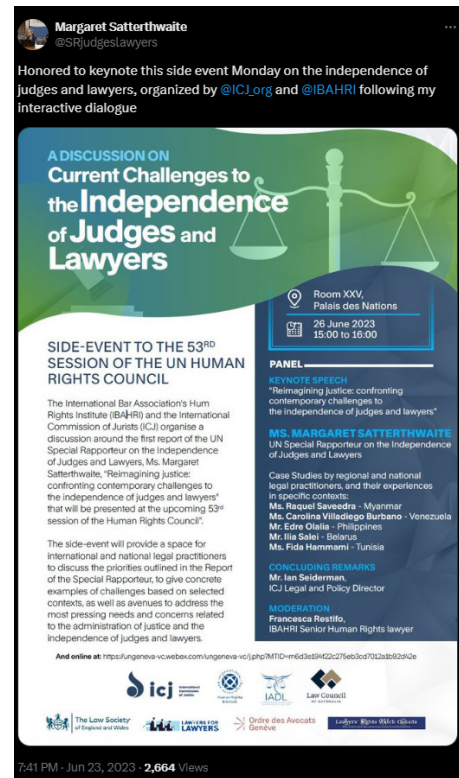
Bolster the effectiveness and independence of judges and lawyers

We support individual judges and lawyers facing persecution and undue influence, and work for an environment which supports the protection and independence of lawyers. We continue to urge authorities to respect the independence and integrity of judges, lawyers and other HRDs under threat. This has contributed to:

- Maintaining the focus of key national, regional and international stakeholders on issues related to the independence of judges and legal profession, by undertaking continued advocacy with authorities to respect and/or further develop related standards. Our work has been echoed in statements, reports and decisions from UN mechanisms, such as under the project on judicial independence in the EU.
- Providing lawyers, HRDs and CSOs with advocacy tools they can use autonomously to protect their integrity and independence and that of their peers. In Europe, this includes regular interventions and international advocacy in individual cases of harassment of the judiciary in Hungary and Poland, [calling for the use of Article 7 procedure](#) in regard to the two countries.
- Raising awareness about standards of judicial independence and accountability, the role of lawyers, and their importance to the promotion of human rights and the rule of law, in particular through the Judicial Independence podcast.

Current challenges to the independence of Judges and Lawyers

We centered our advocacy around the need to protect judicial independence globally, in light of the erosion of the rule of law in Afghanistan, Guatemala, El Salvador, Myanmar and Venezuela, among other countries. We advocate for the increased participation of women in judiciaries and against attacks on lawyers exercising their profession. We also had regular bilateral engagements with the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers, Margaret Satterthwaite.



With judges' associations and civil society organizations from Latin America, we requested a hearing before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) to assess the situation of judicial independence in a number of countries of Latin America. On 9 March, the IACHR heard directly from judges the attacks and threats they are suffering in Bolivia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, and Uruguay. The petitions asked the IACHR to create a specific Rapporteurship or another monitoring mechanism on judicial independence due to the increased threats and at-

tacks on judges in the region. We have been supporting this through concerted social media campaigns to mark special days or challenges to judicial independence and standards on the legal profession.

On 14 June, we co-convoked a [conference](#) for International Fair Trial Day at the National University (UNAM) of Mexico City. The ICJ inaugurated the Conference, with eminent lawyers, human rights defenders, victims and academics from Mexico, as well as members of the Inter-American Commission and Court of Human Rights and the UN Special Rapporteur on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers in attendance.

Former UN Special Rapporteur on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers, Diego García Sayan, presented the Ebru Tımtık Award to two distinguished female lawyers: Alicia de los Ríos and Ana Yeli Pérez Garrido. De los Ríos is a lawyer and historian who has dedicated her life to the search for her mother, a victim of enforced disappearance in the 1970s, and demanded justice for the more than 100,000 disappeared persons in Mexico. Pérez Garrido is a lawyer who advocates for women's human rights and has accompanied and represented female victims of torture and sexual and family violence as well as attempted femicide and femicide. A statement of key fair trial concerns was released, and a private meeting held with the president of the Supreme Court of Mexico.

On 16 June we held a [side event](#) with IBHARI during the 53rd session of the HRC, in which the UN Special Rapporteur participated and during which we highlighted deficiencies and challenges to judicial independence in Myanmar, Tunisia, and the lack of prosecutorial independence in Venezuela. We participated virtually in [the judicial meeting](#) of the ordinary justice system in Colombia that addressed challenges relating to artificial intelligence and judicial functions; media outlets addressing challenges of the [prosecution office](#) in Colombia; and judicial independence in the [region](#).

In Nepal, following a report from the Supreme Court of Nepal that identified problems within the judiciary and made recommendations, we held a series of advocacy discussions on the report respectively with the Supreme Court Bar Association, members of the legal academia and journalists and SC judges.

Rule of Law for Lawyers (ROLL) Project on judicial independence in the EU

The [ROLL project](#) promotes independent and effective judicial systems that protect human rights by strengthening the knowledge and ability of lawyers and CSOs on national and European strategic litigation. It focuses on eight EU Member States: Bulgaria, Czechia, Hungary, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, and Spain.



As part of this, we held two workshops in 2023 in [Brussels](#) and [Malta](#), bringing together legal practitioners from across the EU to discuss and develop strategies to safeguard the independence of the judiciary through strategic litigation. Through these events, we provided a platform for peers to share insights, case studies, and best practices in addressing challenges to judicial independence within the EU. Participants carried out in-depth analysis of current threats and explored litigation strategies, developing a collaborative network.

In 2023, we launched the Judicial Independence Podcast as part of the project. The podcast focuses on the challenges to the independence of the judiciary, access to justice, and the protection of human rights across the European Union. In 2023, we published five episodes which covered topics including the key rule of law problems faced by EU Member States in recent years and the role of strategic litigation and international courts; the situation of the rule of law in Poland; Article 7 proceedings against Hungary and Poland; the Garzon v. Spain decision of the UN Human Rights Committee; and rule of law in Hungary.

Belarus and Russian Federation: Attacks on independent lawyers continue unabated

We have closely followed the human right situation in Belarus to raise the issue of attacks against the legal profession. We intervened in a [case of disbarment of four members of the Belarus Bar Association](#), which constituted a form of harassment, and [the case of an arrest of a lawyer and a journalist](#), and intervened in cases of attacks against lawyers in the Russian Federation, including the case of [labelling lawyers as foreign agents](#) and [the violent attacks against a lawyer in Chechnya](#) in July.



“Lawyers and journalists like Alexander Nemov and Zarema Musayeva play an indispensable role as human rights defenders and this assault is not merely an attack on two individuals, but an attack on the rule of law itself. It is likely to have a profound chilling effect on the professions of lawyers and journalists.”

-TEMUR SHAKIROV, INTERIM DIRECTOR FOR ICJ EUROPE AND CENTRAL PROGRAMME.

In September, we conducted advocacy around these attacks [during the 54 UN HRC sessions](#) and contributed [to the interactive dialogue with the UN Special Rapporteur](#) on the Human Rights Situation in the Russian Federation, as well as co-organising [an event on the human rights situation in the country](#).

Through these initiatives, we continue to support the independence of lawyers and civil society actors and promote the effective and independent functioning of judicial systems across Europe and Central Asia. **By empowering legal professionals and fostering collaboration among key stakeholders, we create a stronger, more resilient justice system that upholds the rule of law and protects human rights.**

Tunisia: Judges’ right to association and protest must be respected

We have assessed the numerous international legal violations in the process of arbitrarily dismissing and prosecuting judges and prosecutors in Tunisia since the President’s power grab on 25 July 2021 in light of the country’s obligations under international human rights law.

We monitor and respond to attacks against individual judges and lawyers, urging action from the UN [SRIJL](#) and other UN procedures and bodies. This includes [Anas Hmedi](#), President of the Association of Tunisian Magistrates (AMT),

our partner in Tunisia, who has been subjected to arbitrary disciplinary and criminal proceedings in retaliation for his work with the AMT. We are also following proceedings against prominent human rights defender and political activist, Chaima Aissa, and the criminal prosecutions of prominent lawyers, Ayachi Hammami, Dalila Msadak and Islem Hamza.

In December, we launched a detailed [report](#) on attacks against judges and prosecutors through arbitrary dismissals and prosecutions. The online launch was attended by members of the judiciary and civil society.

We have also continued to share our briefing on the implementation of [Decree 54](#) on cybercrime, and issued public statements documenting attacks on [lawyers, civil society](#) and [journalists](#). This included one on the draft law on associations that 10 parliamentarians submitted to the Tunisian Parliament on 10 October 2023. This draft law would violate the right to freedom of association and endanger civic space in Tunisia if adopted as currently formulated. The statement coalesced civil society in Tunisia regarding the potential curbs to their activities. Our statement received over 1k views on social media.

Strengthening the rule of law and litigation strategy in Guatemala

We continue to work for the independence of judges and lawyers in Guatemala in partnership with the Association of Mayan Lawyers and Notaries of Guatemala (ANMAG), strengthening the rule of law in Guatemala and enforcing international law and standards.

The mid-term external evaluation report highlighted significant progress in establishing capacities related to judicial independence and the rights of Indigenous Peoples (IPs), particularly concerning the litigation of cases involving violations of IPs’ collective rights. The litigation of these cases has yielded notable results, creating a foundation for potential change in line with the rights of Guatemalan indigenous groups. These changes aim to recognize Indigenous Peoples as rights-bearing subjects, respect their forms of organization, and acknowledge their possession of lands and territories.



Strategic Litigation

We made 12 submissions in litigation processes that were adopted by global, regional and national courts or quasi-judicial bodies. We achieved this in two landmark cases where courts upheld the right to freedom of expression of HRDs and journalists.

We made a submission to an Indonesian (East Jakarta) court in the criminal defamation suit against HRDs Haris Azhar and Fatia Maulidiyanti. The decision to acquit the pair of all criminal charges reflected the application of international standards on the interpretation of defamation and “false information” laws, mirroring the analysis provided in the ICJ’s *amicus* brief. <https://www.icj.org/indonesia-icj-asks-court-to-ensure-that-defamation-and-false-information-laws-not-be-used-to-silence-and-criminalize-human-rights-defenders/>

We made a submission in a criminal defamation suit brought by the Myanmar Pongpipat Company Limited, a Thai-owned company that operates the Heinda Mine in Myanmar’s Dawei SEZ against Thai journalist and former editor of the GreenNews Agency, Pratch Rujivanarom. Court’s reasoning to dismiss the case reflected the analysis of international standards set out in the ICJ’s *amicus* brief. <https://www.icj.org/thailand-the-criminal-law-must-not-be-used-in-defamation-cases-and-to-inhibit-freedom-of-expression/>

The ICJ has been a bastion for the growth and strengthening of the Guatemala Association of Judges for Integrity (Asociación Guatemalteca de Jueces por la Integridad, AGJI) and for the construction of its alliances, and the project has provided lines of protection for independent judges who are being prosecuted, persecuted and threatened.*

Extracted from the mid-term evaluation of the project undertaken by an independent external evaluator in October 2023. *AGJI is an independent association of judges supported by the ICJ who seek to promote democracy and independence of the judiciary and impartiality in Guatemala

Fair Trial Monitoring

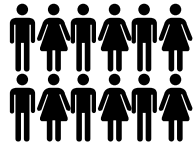
Overall, in 2023, the rights of at least 32 individuals across the world to a fair trial were better protected through ICJ trial monitoring. As for instance, the ICJ observed the trial of the court proceedings of Haris Azhar and Fatia Maulidiyanti, which included three instances of in-person trial monitoring. During the trial observation, the ICJ was able to document instances of fair trial irregularities that occurred through the course of the trial, which included instances suggesting a lack of impartiality in the conduct of the public prosecutors.



STRATEGIC GOAL

4

IMPROVE ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR ALL AND ACCOUNTABILITY



2668

JUDGES, PROSECUTORS, LAWYERS AND OTHER ACTORS PARTICIPATED IN ACTIVITIES ON THIS TOPIC

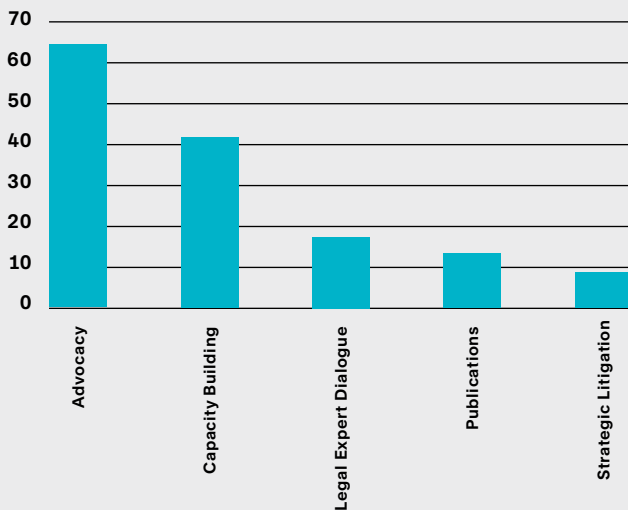


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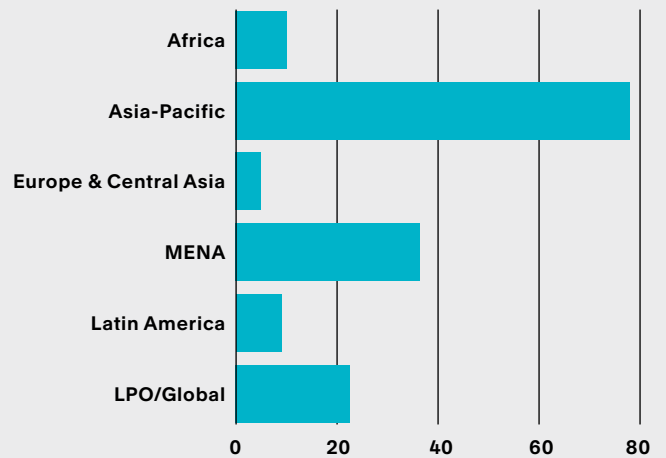
OF ICJ'S TARGET GROUPS WHO CONSIDER THAT ACCESS TO JUSTICE AND ACCOUNTABILITY HAVE BEEN IMPROVED OR AT LEAST BACK-SLIDING IN ITS PROVISION IS HALTED

MOST USED WORKING METHODS

TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR ALL AND ACCOUNTABILITY



ACTIVITIES BY REGIONAL PROGRAMME



PROJECTS FEEDING INTO THIS STRATEGIC GOAL

Improve access to justice for all and accountability

In all regions, victims of human rights and international humanitarian law violations and abuses struggle to access justice and effective remedies and reparation. We continue to promote accountability for human rights violations, abuses, and serious violations of international humanitarian law, through advocacy with key publications, capacity building (described below), strategic litigation and trial monitoring. Overall, in 2023, 88% of the ICJ workshop participants (lawyers, CSO representatives and HRDs) reported an increased understanding of international human rights law and international and regional mechanisms and 86% of legal experts (judges and prosecutors) targeted reported an enhanced environment to conduct their own legal work after ICJ interventions.

Turkey: Using Law for Environmental Advocacy and Defence

We concluded our EU-funded *Using Law for Environmental Advocacy and Defence* (U-LEAD) project in Turkey in December. The project goal was to facilitate synergies between human rights and environmental defenders and between national and international stakeholders, enhancing access to justice to protect the right to a healthy environment in Turkey through the use of human rights law.

During the project's internal evaluation, **key external stakeholders described it as “a groundbreaking initiative” due to its unprecedented focus on environmental legal issues and engagement of Turkey’s civil society.** A survey conducted at the end of the project demonstrated a significant increase in knowledge among lawyers and CSO legal practitioners, with 94% reporting enhanced capacity following workshops. The project has enabled both human rights and environment defenders to use international mechanisms more effectively to defend the right to a healthy environment. With our partner IHOP, we supported a group of Turkish youth, represented by a young Turkish environmental lawyer, through a complaint before national courts that related to the implementation of the Paris Agreement.

Six judiciaries from Asia commit to the adoption of the Bangkok General Guidance for Judges on Applying a Gender Perspective

We are proactively engaging with judges across Southeast Asia and South Asia to promote the domestic application of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and other international human rights law and standards. Access to justice for women remains a central focus of our work and we have been actively championing gender equality within the judiciary through the organization of national Judicial Dialogues (JDs) and specialized training sessions for more than 1,000 judges across South and Southeast Asia

In 2016, we began working with UN Women, with the support of SIDA, to organize a judicial dialogue that brought together judges from Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand, and Timor-Leste. This collaboration resulted in the creation of the Bangkok General Guidance for Judges in Applying a Gender Perspective (BGG), produced by judges primarily for judges to assist them, among things, in identifying and addressing gender stereotypes. The BGG serves as a valuable tool encouraging judges to adjudicate cases and evaluate evidence without resorting to gender stereotypes, thereby rendering decisions grounded in the principles of equality and non-discrimination.

During a regional judicial consultation held in 2023, which brought together members of the judiciary from South and Southeast Asia, we witnessed enthusiastic responses from participants when they were asked about their intentions to implement the BGG in their jurisdictions:

- The Maldivian delegation expressed their commitment to assist their Supreme Court in adopting the BGG, in the interim, pledging to imbue a gender perspective into their future judgments by referencing these international standards.
- The Sri Lankan delegation declared its intent to share the guidelines during judges’ trainings and actively



support the adoption of the BGG within the Sri Lanka Judges' Institute curriculum. They are also planning to craft a handbook on the BGG for use during the induction training of newly appointed judges.

- Judges from the Philippine Supreme Court underlined that they have already embedded the principles of the BGG into their work. This integration has occurred through regular training sessions facilitated by the Philippine Judicial Academy, alongside the issuance of circulars such as the Guidelines on Gender-Fair Language and Courtroom Etiquette. The Philippine delegation emphasized its involvement in the drafting of the original BGG and a steadfast commitment to work towards the formal adoption the BGG.
- The National Judicial Academy of India expressed its plans to incorporate the BGG into the academy's curriculum, ensuring its inclusion in every gender sensitization training conducted at the national level, and widespread dissemination of the document across India. Representatives from the Bangladesh Judicial Administration and Training Institute committed to discussing the guidelines with their faculty members, and conducting comprehensive training sessions on the BGG, including training trainers on its content. They also plan to work towards the adoption of the BGG by their training institute.

All participating judiciaries in the regional dialogue, which also included Bangladesh, Indonesia, and Thailand, agreed to consider adopting the guidelines within their respective jurisdictions.

Protecting the rights of refugees and migrants in South Africa

In South Africa, there have been discriminatory laws and practices by the State against non-citizens, particularly concerning their right to work, ability to access employment and health care services. This discrimination has notably affected non-citizen lawyers in South Africa, undocumented Zimbabwean migrants, and pregnant and lactating non-citizen women and children.

The State has a regulation under which attorneys who are not citizens and do not hold permanent residency are not allowed to practice law in South Africa, regardless of their qualifications. According to Section 24(2) of the Legal Practice Act, only South African citizens and permanent residents are eligible to be admitted as lawyers. This legislation and practice create a distinction based on a person's national origin, which constitutes discrimination against international law standards.

In 2020, the Gauteng Department of Health implemented regulations and policies that prevented asylum seekers, undocumented individuals, and stateless persons who were pregnant or breastfeeding, as well as young children, from accessing free health care services. These discriminatory measures had the effect of denying these vulnerable populations access to essential healthcare services. Again, intervention from the Gauteng High Court in April 2023 has reversed the policy.

- We intervened as amicus in the Gauteng High Court case regarding the rights of pregnant and lactating women and young children to access healthcare services. NGOs are proceeding to monitor the state's compliance with its findings.

- We also intervened as amicus in the case of non-citizens being allowed to practise law, but the Constitutional Court did not find in our favour and has set a poor precedent which stands.

Given the pattern of racially discriminatory policy-making by the South African government over the years, we submitted a report to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) in advance of its review of South Africa's combined 9th to 11th periodic report in November 2023. The report detailed the challenges outlined above and urged the Committee to make specific recommendations addressing these issues.

The Gauteng High Court has ruled that pregnant and lactating women and young children have the right to receive free health services at all public health facilities. The Court also directed the Gauteng Department of Health to revise its policy and issue a circular to all public health providers, informing them of the eligibility of the groups mentioned above for free health services at all public health facilities. In December 2023, the South African government enacted a directive which grants exemptions for undocumented Zimbabwean nationals. This directive aligns with one of the recommendation points outlined in the ICJ's submission to CERD.

Kenya: ICJ, Validity Foundation and UDPK promote the use of strategic litigation on the rights of persons with disabilities

In 2023, with Validity Foundation, and the United Disabled Persons of Kenya (UDPK), we stepped up efforts to promote the greater use of strategic litigation to secure the rights of persons with disabilities. At a workshop convened on 11 and 12 October, the 3 partners worked at building the capacity of organizations of persons with disabilities (OPDs) to undertake strategic litigation.

Strategic litigation is currently underutilized by persons with disabilities and their representative organizations in Kenya. At the workshop, persons with disabilities indicated that they faced barriers to instituting or participating effectively in litigation. CSOs and lawyers who attended the workshop stressed that key stakeholders, including those who provide litigation support to indigent persons, typically do not have adequate capacity and training to advocate for the rights of persons with disabilities. During the workshop, the participants discussed the need for continuous meaningful engagement between OPDs and other key stakeholders which undertake legal advocacy on human rights, including the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights, Katiba Institute, the Law Society of Kenya, and the Federation of Women Lawyers in Kenya.

"As a party to the Convention on the Rights of Persons With Disabilities, the African Disability Protocol and other regional and UN human rights treaties, Kenya is obliged to ensure that all persons with disabilities enjoy all human rights on an equal basis. Kenya's obligations include a duty to ensure that effective remedies – including throughout courts – are available where persons with disabilities allege the denial of their rights."

—SAID WILSON MACHARIA, ICJ AFRICA'S ASSOCIATE
LEGAL ADVISOR.

Egypt: Abolish the Emergency State Security Courts and End Miscarriages of Justice

We have been implementing projects in Egypt aiming to:

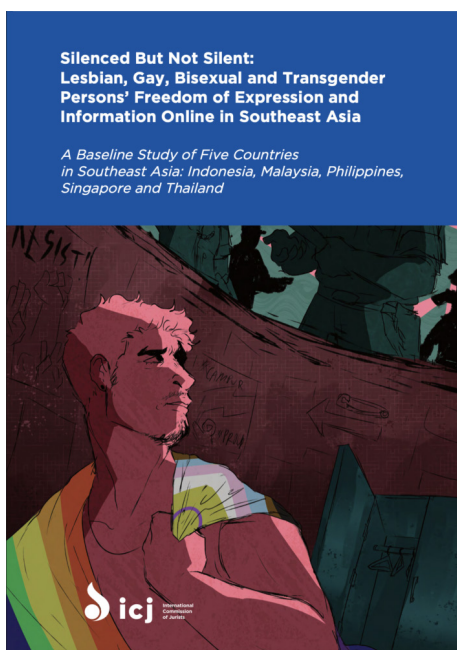
- Effectively document crimes under international law and support victims,
- Support Egyptian practitioners to litigate cases of crimes under international law before regional and international accountability mechanisms, including under extra-territorial or universal jurisdiction.

We documented numerous instances of lawyers being arbitrarily detained and prosecuted on trumped-up charges, including terrorism-related charges, for discharging their professional functions. By carrying out such arbitrary detentions and initiating such politicized prosecutions against lawyers, CSAs and HRDs, the Egyptian military and government have succeeded in shrinking the civic space; silencing the very voices that can still witness, challenge and report on industrial-scale human rights violations; and meticulously dismantling the very last lines of defense against its ruthless crackdown on human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Silenced But Not Silent: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Persons' Freedom of Expression and Information Online in Southeast Asia

In a [report](#) we launched in mid-2023, we called for the authorities in Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand to immediately reform laws, policies and practices that have led to violations of the right of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and gender diverse (LGBT) persons to safely and freely express themselves and access information online.

In Indonesia and Malaysia and, to a lesser extent, in Singapore, the authorities have unlawfully and arbitrarily limited LGBT-related expression and information through legal sanctions against and restrictions on access to websites and online content. Such clampdown has been pursued under an overly expansive purported justification of curtailing content that is "indecent", "improper", "obscene" or "pornographic". LGBT individuals in all five countries have



reported facing online violence, abuse and hate speech, with rare access to justice and effective remedies for such violence and abuse due to the substantive and procedural barriers they face.

This is the first report of its kind in the Southeast Asia region on the challenges faced by LGBT persons in the context of discriminatory laws that criminalize or place restrictions on their Freedom of Expression (FoE) and Freedom of Information (FoI) rights, and the impact of online violence and abuse on FoE. It generated a great deal of interest amongst the LGBT community and resulted in the formation of a Working Group of 16 LGBT organizations from the region to study the intersectionality of digital rights and sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics (SOGIESC) rights and advocate for the better protection of these rights. **The report was endorsed by Victor Madrigal-Borloz, UN Independent Expert on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity.**

Decolonizing jurisprudence: Protecting the rights to dignity, privacy, equality, and non-discrimination of marginalized people in post-colonial States

We organized a “South-to-South” Judicial Dialogue on “Decolonizing jurisprudence: Protecting the rights to dignity, privacy, equality, and non-discrimination of marginalized people in post-colonial States” on 25 and 26 March 2023 on Mahe Island in the Seychelles.

The Judicial Dialogue (JD) provided a unique platform to eminent jurists, advocates, activists, and academics from the Asia and Africa regions for discussions on the progressive interpretation of constitutional rights, including the right

to life, dignity, privacy and personal liberty in light of international human rights law and standards, and its role in enabling rights-respecting solutions to contemporary challenges faced by LGBTQI+ individuals. A total of 26 people participated in the Judicial Dialogue, including 14 judges from 12 countries from Africa and Asia regions (Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, India, Kenya, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Uganda, Lesotho, Malawi, Botswana and the Seychelles). Two of the participants joined virtually.

Advisory assistance on Thailand's Anti-Torture and Enforced Disappearances Act

Thailand's long delayed Act on the Prevention and Suppression of Torture and Enforced Disappearances took effect on 23 February 2023. In recognition of the ICJ's continued advocacy and technical assistance over the years on these issues, the ICJ's Legal Adviser for Thailand was invited to be a member of the Legal Sub-Committee established under the Act to help develop regulations to ensure better implementation of the Act.

In 2023, we contributed to the formulation of regulations relating to the video recording of arrests carried out by the official authorities as well as guidelines for the recording of information obtained from persons who have been arrested. **We are the only INGO with a representative on the Legal Sub-Committee.**

Nepal: Prime Minister, victims' and survivor groups and other stakeholders agree that proposed transitional justice bill needs revision to ensure real accountability

In Nepal, the collaborative efforts between the ICJ and Advocacy Forum-Nepal have achieved significant milestones in advancing human rights and transitional justice in the year 2023. One of the key achievements of the year was the national conference on Sentencing Regime in the Context of the Transitional Justice Process in Nepal, held on 4 September 2023 in Kathmandu, in collaboration with Advocacy Form Nepal. The discussions during the conference were focused on transitional justice, victims' access to justice and human rights accountability in general, and best practices regarding the leniency of sentencing in particular, with a special focus on the Colombian model of transitional justice. Nepal's Prime Minister, Pushpa Kamal Dahal (Prachanda), spoke at the conference and made commitments to advance the ongoing transitional justice process, establishing a credible justice process to uncover the truth and providing reparations to the victims of human rights violations and abuses that occurred during the armed conflict.



The ICJ Global Accountability Initiative - protecting human dignity and the rule of law globally

The objective of our Global Accountability Initiative is to increase access to justice for victims and survivors of human rights and international humanitarian law violations and abuses and provide for access to effective redress and to hold perpetrators to account, including through prosecutions in fair trials.

- We were also actively engaged in working towards the elaboration and adoption of the Convention on Crimes Against Humanity (CAH): In April, we participated virtually in the resumed sessions of the UN 6th Committee, collaborating with an informal network of CSOs, including TRIAL International, Asia Justice Coalition (AJC), Amnesty International, Global Justice Center, Redress, and Human Rights Watch, to prepare interventions and coordinate advocacy efforts.
- In June, we co-hosted a webinar with the AJC discussing the potential and relevance of the proposed CAH Convention for the Asia-Pacific region, which also examined its complementarity with the Rome Statute and the recently adopted Hague-Ljubljana Convention. This provided a critical platform for defining Global South's contributions to the international legal order.
- In September, we organized a side event at the UN Human Rights Council, again with multiple partners, to emphasize the importance of a future CAH Convention in addressing gaps in accountability. The side-event was attended by over twenty State delegations and dozens of members of civil society from around the globe.
- This was followed by another significant engagement in December, where the ICJ co-organized a side event and civil society workshop at the International Criminal Court Assembly of State Parties (ICC ASP), bringing together a wide array of stakeholders from around the world to discuss the CAH draft articles and promote broader engagement with the ongoing process.

These efforts were instrumental in fostering a comprehensive understanding and support for working towards a full Interstate negotiation and CAH treaty, advancing the global dialogue on accountability for crimes against humanity.

Parallel to these efforts, we attended the diplomatic conference in Ljubljana, Slovenia, for the final negotiations of the Hague-Ljubljana Convention on International Cooperation in the Investigation and Prosecution of the Crime of Genocide, Crimes Against Humanity, War Crimes, and Other International Crimes.

- We played a pivotal role in consulting with state delegations, particularly on ensuring that the treaty's definitions and jurisdictional clauses were in line with customary international law.
- Our advocacy efforts continued with the issuance of public statements (on jurisdictional clauses, and post-adoption), urging states to adopt the treaty without reservations and cautioning against regressive amendments that could undermine the treaty's effectiveness.
- We were also involved in various public engagements, including podcasts and symposia, to promote the ratification and implementation of the newly adopted Convention including a well-received panel discussion at Cardozo Law School in New York.

We also continued advocacy for the development of a **Standing Independent Investigative Mechanism (SIIM)**. In December, in coordination with Oxford University and with support from the Open Society Foundation, we hosted a consultation with civil society and human rights defenders on the sidelines of the 2023 International Criminal Court Assembly of State Parties (ICC ASP). This brought together 15 civil society actors from diverse regions, including Myanmar, Xinjiang in China, Cox's Bazaar in Bangladesh, and Gaza in Palestine. Participants shared their views on and experiences of working with UN-mandated investigations, such as Independent Investigative Mechanisms, as Commissions of Inquiry and Fact-Finding Missions. Discussions during the consultation highlighted the challenges and potential benefits of establishing a SIIM, focusing on how it could overcome existing obstacles and enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of ad-hoc UN investigations. This provided a significant step forward in researching innovative solutions to fill gaps in global impunity.

We also undertook activities pertaining to accountability for international crimes in North Korea in 2023. In September, we participated in a virtual Pan-Asian Forum aimed at strengthening accountability and advocacy initiatives focusing on human rights violations and international crimes oc-

curing in North Korea. This provided a platform for sharing lessons learned from our advocacy work in Colombia, Libya and Myanmar, which has achieved notable gains in international accountability. Building on the momentum from this forum, we have continued to engage with an informal network of North Korean diaspora CSOs, culminating in the formalization of this group into the DPRK Accountability Platform at the end of 2023. This approach underscores our commitment to addressing some of the most intractable human rights situations worldwide through sustained advocacy and international cooperation.

In December, we were the only international organization present to observe the final judicial proceedings in the case of Desi Bouterse, former President of Suriname who was convicted of the extrajudicial killing of 15 leading opponents of the regime on 8 December 1982. We have been following and reporting on the case for more than 40 years, including through several trial observations of complex proceedings. We welcomed the 20 December 2023 decision by the Hof van Justitie, the highest court in Suriname, confirming the conviction of Bouterse. However, he has since evaded imprisonment by going into hiding, and we continue to advocate for effective measures to ensure his prompt arrest.

In addition, we have been working with human rights defenders and key actors to advance accountability and redress efforts in Afghanistan, Colombia, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Ukraine, and Venezuela, as well as on enforced disappearances, extrajudicial executions, transitional justice, freedom of expression and freedom of association and peaceful assembly.

These achievements not only mark important milestones but also lay the groundwork for sustainable progress in international law and human rights advocacy. A key impact of our work was the shaping and advancing of international legal frameworks, particularly through advocacy on the draft articles on Crimes Against Humanity and the Hague-Ljubljana Convention. Our contributions helped to define and push forward the adoption of these instruments, aiming to close significant gaps in the international legal architecture.

Our focused initiatives to sensitize and educate justice sector actors and policymakers about international standards have led to meaningful discussions and, in some cases, influenced the alignment of national laws with international human rights law and standards, contributing to the broader goal of enhancing legal and judicial capacities in focus countries. This effort not only promotes immediate legal improvements but also contributes to the long-term sustainability of justice systems by embedding international standards within domestic legal frameworks. The sustainability of our impact is reinforced by our strategic partnerships with other CSOs and international bodies. These amplify the reach and effectiveness of our programs and ensure that initiatives are supported by a broad network of allies. This approach not only enhances current efforts but ensures that there is continued momentum and support for accountability measures, even as global political and social landscapes evolve.

These efforts underscored a continued commitment to closing impunity gaps, yet the overall progress of these measures remains tempered by geopolitical complexities and the willingness of states to enforce international law within their jurisdictions.

MEDIA & COMMUNICATION

2023 KEY FIGURES



82

PRESS RELEASE
ISSUED IN 2023



+61%

VISITORS ON
ICJ LINKEDIN PAGE



+35%

OPEN RATE FOR
ICJ'S NEWSLETTER,
27% MORE THAN IN 2022

INCREASED TRAFFIC ON LINKEDIN



15.6K users
(+61% more than
in 2022)



223k impressions
over 6 months



2527 reactions
and 265 shares

25 PUBLICATIONS IN 2023

covering all the regional and global
work. All published reports are
available on the ICJ website.



KEY AUDIENCE TARGETED ON TWITTER



More than
62.5k
followers



29.2k
impressions



Large increase in
engagement
rate: 2148 mentions
in June 2023 alone



Financial report

In 2023, the ICJ had 57 running contracts from 24 donors (compared to 52 running contracts from 25 donors), with 17 new grant agreements started during the year. The ICJ continued to follow the revenue recognition accounting policy which was introduced in 2019 following a recommendation by its auditors. The unearmarked income amounted to CHF 1,548,942 compared to 2022 CHF 1,898,050. As in previous years diversification of the ICJ's funding base and donors continues to remain a priority, combined with a recognized need for the ICJ to increase the level of funding that is more flexible, rather than earmarked for specific projects.

The majority of the ICJ's income continues to be from earmarked projects (about 75%). Restricted income was CHF 1,178 lower than in 2023 mainly due to reduction in new funding from Open Society Foundations as they finalise their restructuring process, and realignment of UN Women funding for our long running Women's Access to Justice programme. ICJ achieved a balanced financial result, ending the year with a positive result and clearing its previous deficit, while maintaining a tied capital of CHF 461,465. Out of the total operating expenditure, around 87% continued to be earmarked for project activities, with 13% spent on governance, quality control, project and change management, support services and fundraising.

INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF JURISTS, GENEVA

COMBINED STATEMENT OF INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

with comparative figures for 2022

in Swiss francs

	Notes	Combined 2023	Combined 2022
INCOME			
Contributions for projects (restricted)	6.4	4'854'074	6'032'827
Contributions for the commission	7	1'548'942	1'898'050
Other income		75'861	13'555
Interoffice billings			
TOTAL INCOME		6'478'877	7'944'432
OPERATING EXPENDITURE			
Staff	8.1	(3'498'899)	(3'883'285)
Meeting & travel		(1'379'607)	(1'364'201)
Consultancy & service fees		(1'506'201)	(1'525'113)
Publication & promotion costs		(28'277)	(16'392)
Communication costs		(7'208)	(5'608)
Office premises		(291'592)	(322'942)
Other administrative expenditures		(110'663)	(109'860)
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURE	8.2	(6'822'447)	(7'227'401)
OPERATING RESULT		(343'570)	717'031
Non-operating result, net	8.3	(16'174)	(107'359)
Financial (expenses)/income, net	8.4	(148'252)	(34'349)
Variation of the provision of loss on receivables		-	-
Loss on other current assets and loss on grant receivables	8.5	-	-
Provision for litigation	8.6	-	(45'722)
INTERMEDIATE RESULT BEFORE CHANGE IN FUNDS		(507'996)	529'601
Attribution to restricted funds	6.4	(4'854'074)	(6'032'827)
Use of restricted funds	6.4	5'242'724	5'819'012
Overheads from projects	6.4	376'303	391'499
Change in restricted funds		764'953	177'684
Attribution to tied capital	7	-	-
Change in tied capital		-	-
SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR		256'957	707'285

INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF JURISTS, GENEVA

COMBINED BALANCE SHEET FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

with comparative figures for 2022

In Swiss francs

Assets	Notes	Combined 31.12.2023	Combined 31.12.2022
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash & cash equivalents	5.1	2'972'933	2'077'979
Grants receivables nets	5.2	1'392'466	2'408'300
Other current assets nets	5.3	174'815	383'790
Prepaid expenses	5.4	45'426	72'690
Total current assets		4'585'640	4'942'759
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Grants receivable (long term)	5.2	-	-
Tangible and intangible assets		-	-
Financial assets	5.5	11'431	11'627
Total non-current assets		11'431	11'627
TOTAL ASSETS		4'597'071	4'954'386
LIABILITIES & FUNDS			
SHORT-TERM LIABILITIES			
Bank overdrafts			
Operating liabilities	6.1	247'805	209'365
Accrued liabilities	6.2	553'859	547'178
Contributions received in advance	6.3	1'540'289	845'775
Lease liabilities			
Financial commitments			
Total short term liabilities		2'341'953	1'602'318
LONG TERM LIABILITIES			
Lease liabilities			
RESTRICTED FUNDS			
Funds restricted to projects	6.4	1'698'761	3'012'101
Total restricted funds		1'698'761	3'012'101
CAPITAL OF THE ORGANISATION			
Tied capital		461'465	461'465
Foreign currency translation reserve		(57'829)	(17'261)
Accumulated losses		(104'236)	(811'522)
Surplus for the year		256'957	707'285
Total capital of the organisation		556'357	339'967
TOTAL LIABILITIES & FUNDS		4'597'071	4'954'386

Commission Members

Title	First Name	Last Name	Region	Country
Justice	Azhar	Cachalia	Africa	South Africa
Justice	Moses	Chinhengo	Africa	Zimbabwe
Mr	Michelo	Hansungule	Africa	Zambia
Ms	Jamesina	King	Africa	Sierra Leone
Justice	Qinisile	Mabuza	Africa	Swaziland
Justice	Charles	Mkandawire	Africa	Malawi
Justice	Yvonne	Mokgoro	Africa	South Africa
Justice	Aruna	Narain	Africa	Mauritius
Justice	Lillian	Tibatemwa-Ekirikubinza	Africa	Uganda
Justice	Carlos	Ayala	Americas	Venezuela
Mr	Reed	Brody	Americas	United States
Ms	Catalina	Botero	Americas	Colombia
Professor	José Luis	Caballero Ochoa	Americas	Mexico
Ms	Leilani	Farha	Americas	Canada
Professor	Robert	Goldman	Americas	USA
Professor	Juan	Mendez	Americas	Argentina
Professor	Mónica	Pinto	Americas	Argentina
Professor	Victor	Rodriguez Rescia	Americas	Costa Rica
Mr	Alejandro	Salinas Rivera	Americas	Chile
Mr	Wilder	Taylor	Americas	Uruguay
Dr	Rodrigo	Uprimny Yepes	Americas	Colombia
Prof.	Bernard	Duhaime	Americas	Canada
Prof	César	Landa	Americas	Peru
Ms	Claudia	Paz y Paz	Americas	Guatemala
Prof	Kyong-Wahn	Ahn	Asia	Republic of Korea
Professor	Adolfo	Azcuna	Asia	Philippines
Dr	Elizabeth	Biok	Asia	Australia
Dame	Silvia	Cartwright	Asia	New Zealand
Ms	Hina	Jilani	Asia	Pakistan
Justice	John	O'Meally	Asia	Australia
Ms	Mikiko	Otani	Asia	Japan
Justice	Ajit Prakash	Shah	Asia	India
Justice	Kalyan	Shrestha	Asia	Nepal
Ms	Ambiga	Sreenevasan	Asia	Malaysia
Ms	Chinara	Aidarbekova	Europe	Kyrgyzstan
Sir	Nicolas	Bratza	Europe	UK
Justice	Martine	Comte	Europe	France
Justice	Radmila	Dicic	Europe	Serbia
Ms	Gulnora	Ishankhanova	Europe	Uzbekistan
Ms	Asne	Julsrud	Europe	Norway
Justice	Tamara	Morschakova	Europe	Russia
Justice	Egbert	Myjer	Europe	Netherlands
Dr	Jarna	Petman	Europe	Finland
Professor	Marco	Sassöli	Europe	Switzerland
Justice	Stefan	Trechsel	Europe	Switzerland
Prof.	Fionnuala	Ni Aolain	Europe	Ireland
Ms	Patricia	Schulz	Europe	Switzerland
Ms	Hadeel	Abdel Aziz	MENA	Jordan
Mr	Marzen	Darwish	MENA	Syria
Mr	Gamal	Eid	MENA	Egypt
Ms	Nahla	Haidar El Addal	MENA	Lebanon
Mr	Shawan	Jabarin	MENA	Palestine
Justice	Kalthoum	Kennou	MENA	Tunisia
Dr	Fatsah	Ougergouz	MENA	Algeria
Mr	Michael	Sfard	MENA	Israel
Justice	Marwan	Tashani	MENA	Libya

Partners

A

- Access Now
- Action Programme for Equality and Social Inclusion of the University of the Andes (Colombia)
- Accountability Counsel
- aditus foundation
- Afghan Independent Bar Association in Exile (AIBA-E)
- African Judiciaries Research Network
- Aliansi Jurnalis Independen (AJI)
- Alerta Venezuela
- AmerBon Advocates
- Amnesty International
- Anti-Death Penalty Asia Network (ADPAN)
- Article 19
- Arus Pelangi
- ASGI
- ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR)
- ASEAN Parliamentarians for Human Rights (APHR)
- ASEAN SOGIE Caucus
- Asia Centre
- Asia Feminist LBQ Network
- Asia Justice Coalition (AJC)
- Association des Magistrats Tunisiens
- Association of Lawyers for Freedom (ÖHD)
- Association of Indonesian Women for Justice Legal Aid Institution (LembagaBantuan Hukum Asosiasi Perempuan Indonesia untuk Keadilan)
- Association of Indigenous Women of the Archipelago (Perempuan Aman)
- Association of Mayan lawyers and notaries of Guatemala
- Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law, and Development
- Asia Pacific School on Internet Governance
- Asia Pacific Transgender Network
- Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development (FORUM-ASIA)
- Asian Network for Free Elections (ANFREL)
- Association for Progressive Communications
- Association for the Prevention of Torture
- Atma Jaya Catholic University of Indonesia
- Attorney General's Office, Indonesia
- Attorney General's Chambers of Malaysia

B

- Bologna Bar Association
- Biratnagar High Court Bar Association, Nepal
- Business and Human Rights Resource Centre (BHRRC)

C

- Cambodian Center for Human Rights (CCHR)
- Cambodian Human Rights and Development Association (ADHOC)
- Cambodian League for the Promotion and Defense of Human Rights (LICADHO)
- Campaign to decriminalize Poverty and Status
- Center for Alliance of Labor and Human Rights (CENTRAL)
- Centre for Civil and Political Rights (CCPR Centre)
- Center for Justice and International Law (CEJIL)
- Centre for Applied Legal Studies (South Africa)
- Centro de Derechos Humanos de la Universidad Metropolitana (CDH-UNIMET)

- Centro de Derechos Humanos – Universidad Católica Andrés Bello (CDH-UCAB)
- Centro para los Defensores y la Justicia
- Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria (CHR)
- Centre for Independent Journalism, Malaysia
- CEPAZ
- Chamber of Lawyers of Uzbekistan
- Civic Alliance (Montenegro)
- Civil Rights Defenders
- Civil Society Alliance for Human Rights in the Pandemic Treaty
- Civicus
- Civilis
- Clooney Foundation
- Colombia University (USA)
- Colombian Alliance for Legal Capacity (Colombia)
- Colombian Commission of Jurists (CCJ)
- Columbia Mailman School of Public Health (USA)
- Comisión Colombiana de Juristas (CCJ)
- Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR)
- Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)
- Conflict Victims Common Platform (CVCP)
- Conflict Victims National Alliance (CVNA)
- Conflict Victims' Society for Justice (CVSJ)
- Conflict Victim Women National Network (CVWN)
- Consortium against the Commercialisation of Healthcare
- CREA (India)
- Cyrus Vance Center for International Justice

D

- Défense des enfants international (Belgium)
- Défense Sans Frontière Avocats Solidaires (DSF-AS)
- Dejusticia (Colombia)
- DhColombia
- Disability Rights Watch (Zambia)
- Documenta (Mexico)
- Due Process Law Foundation (DPLF)

E

- EachRights (Kenya)
- East-West Management Institute (Uzbekistan)
- Eleos Justice
- EngageMedia
- Environmental Law Alliance Worldwide (ELAW)
- Emergent Justice Collective
- Equal Education Law Centre (EELC)
- Equipo Argentino de Antropología Forense (EAAF)
- Equitable Cambodia ESCR National Network
- Eswatini Commission on Human Rights & Public Administration
- ETO Consortium
- European Association of Lawyers for Democracy and World Human Rights (ELDH)
- European Bars Federation (FBE)
- European Democratic Lawyers (EDL-AED)

F

- Facultad de Jurisprudencia de la Universidad del Rosario
- Fair Trials
- Federal Court of Malaysia

- Focus on the Global South
- Fortify Rights
- Free Courts (Poland)
- Frontline Defenders
- FIAN International
- Fiji Judicial Department
- Fiji Law Society
- Fiji Women Lawyers Association
- Fiji Women's Rights Movement (FWRM)
- Fiscalía General de la Nación (Colombia)
- Forum for Human Rights
- Foundation for Access to Rights
- Foundation for Socio Economic Justice (FSEJ)
- Franciscans International
- French National Bar Council (CNB)
- Friedrich Ebert Stiftung

G

- Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights
- Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect - GCR2P
- Global Health Law Consortium (GHLIC)
- Global Initiative for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (GI-ESCR)
- Global Network of Sex Work Projects
- Global Strategy Lab
- Google
- Greek Council for Refugees
- Guernica Centre

H

- Health Justice Initiative (HJI)
- Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights
- HIV Justice Network
- Human Rights Committee
- Human Rights Commission of Malaysia (SUHAKAM)
- Human Rights in Practice
- Human Rights & Justice Center
- Human Rights Centre of the Republic of Uzbekistan
- Human Rights Watch
- Hungarian Helsinki Committee

I

- ICJ- Kenya
- ILGA Asia
- Independen.id
- Institute for Criminal Justice Reform
- INGO Forum
- Initiative for Social and Economic Rights (ISER)
- Institute for Ethics, Law and Armed Conflict (ELAC), Oxford University
- Institute for the Rule of Law of the International Association of Lawyers (UIA-IROL)
- Institute of Commonwealth Studies, University of London
- International Association of Democratic Lawyers (IADL)
- International Association of Lawyers
- International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute (IBAHRI)
- International Bridges to Justice
- International Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ICNL)
- International Development Law Organization (IDLO)
- International Disability Alliance
- International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH)

- International Labor Organization (ILO)
- International Network of People who Use Drugs
- International Network on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ESCR-Net)
- International Observatory for Lawyers in Danger (OIAD)
- International Service for Human Rights (ISHR)
- International Society for Human Rights (ISHR)
- International Trade Union Confederation
- Italian National Bar Council (CNF)

J

- Judges Society Nepal (JSN)
- Justice Rapid Response Justice and Rights Institute Nepal (JuRI)
- Justicia y verdad Venezuela
- Jurisdicción Especial para la Paz (JEP)
- Justice for Sisters

K

- Kaged
- Katiba Institute
- Kathmandu School of Law (Nepal)
- Kenya Association of the Intellectually Handicapped (KAIH)
- Kings College London (UK)
- Komisi Untuk Orang Hilang Dan Korban Tindak Kekerasan (KontraS)
- Komnas HAM
- Komisi Nasional Anti Kekerasan terhadap Perempuan
- Konrad Adenauer Latin America regional program
- KRYSS Network

L

- Law Society of England and Wales, Lawyers for Lawyers (L4L)
- Law Society of Eswatini
- Lawyers for Lawyers
- Lawyers' Rights Watch Canada
- LBH Apik Jakarta
- Legal Dignity
- Legal Resources Center for Moldova
- Lesotho National Federation of Organisations of the Disabled (LNFOD)

M

- Mahkamah Agung Republik Indonesia
- Malaysia Bar Council
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