

International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute

ANNUAL REVIEW 2017

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FOREWORD

2017 was a difficult year for human rights. Since the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted 70 years ago, it appears that we are now reaching a point where the universal acceptance of human rights is being eroded. Increasingly polarised political spheres and growing support for populist governments are resulting in policies that scapegoat minorities,

'When I got to know the IBA's Human Rights Institute and I learned more about human rights, it was as if someone had lit a guiding light for me.'

IBAHRI TRAINING PARTICIPANT

attack the under-represented and persecute those who oppose these oppressive governments.

In this atmosphere, protection of human rights, the rule of law and an independent legal profession is more important than ever. This

makes the work of the International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute (IBAHRI) essential. Throughout the year, the IBAHRI continued to advocate for the independence of the legal profession, making statements and raising awareness about professionals who face threats and attacks because of their work. Most tragically, the IBAHRI had to raise awareness of the murder of lawyer U Ko Ni in Myanmar, and consequently began monitoring the trial of those accused of his murder.

BARONESS HELENA KENNEDY QC



Baroness Helena Kennedy QC is one of Britain's most distinguished lawyers. She has spent her professional life giving a voice to those who have least power within the legal system, championing civil liberties and promoting human rights. She has used many public platforms – including the House of Lords, to which she was elevated in 1997 – to argue with passion, wit and humanity for social justice. She has also written and

proadcast on a wide range of issues, including medical negligence, terrorism, and the rights of women and children. In addition to defending the independence of the legal profession, the IBAHRI is committed to working with professionals to ensure that they can be agents through which human rights can be realised and protected. We believe that legal professionals are best placed to ensure that those responsible are held to account. Through training and capacity

building, we assist in ensuring that legal professionals have the necessary tools and knowledge to perform their duties.

With torture prevention becoming a growing area of our work, in 2017 we provided a number of torture-prevention trainings to equip a range of professionals with the necessary legal understanding to combat this international crime.

Further to equipping legal professionals with the knowledge to carry out their duties effectively, the IBAHRI also believes that it is essential for lawyers to have the structures in place to govern their own profession and operate independently. In Myanmar and Timor-Leste, we have been supporting lawyers to establish independent, self-governing and sustainable bar associations.

Strengthening the profession only gets us halfway, of course, if the laws of the land are failing to protect

AMBASSADOR (RET.) HANS CORELL



Hans Corell has served as a legal advisor and diplomat on the international legal stage for many years. As Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs and the Legal Counsel of the United Nations from 1994 to 2004, Ambassador Corell represented the Secretary-General at the 1998 UN Conference that adopted the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. During his service he was involved in establishing the

International Tribunal for Rwanda, the Special Court for Sierra Leone and the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia for the trials of senior Khmer Rouge leaders. Since retiring, Hans continues to participate in the international legal sector, including as Co-Chair of the IBAHRI and other legal institutes, and as a legal advisor and lecturer.

universal human rights. Through our in-depth reports, we identify areas where the law is failing to protect individuals from human rights abuses, or where domestic laws are not in conformity with international law. Our reports on albinism, the legality of armed drone strikes and the obligation to mobilise resources to satisfy minimum essential levels of human rights all sought to analyse critically the existing legal frameworks in order to develop new frameworks that will protect the rights of all individuals.

This analysis, and all of the experience gained through delivering our projects with professionals around the world, feed into the advocacy work that we do through our United Nations Programme in Geneva. Working with the UN human rights mechanisms allows us to represent legal professionals and defend human rights on the international stage.

We invite you to take the time to read our annual review. It will give you a full understanding of the breadth, depth and focus of our work.

In 2018, our work will continue. We hope you will continue to support the IBAHRI in its endeavours.

Baroness Helena Kennedy QC

Ambassador (ret.) Hans Corell

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ABOUT THE IBAHRI

ABOUT US

The International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute (IBAHRI), an autonomous and financially independent entity, works with the global legal community to promote and protect human rights and the independence of the legal profession worldwide.

WHAT WE DO

We provide **human rights training** and **technical assistance** for legal practitioners and institutions, building their capacity to effectively promote and protect human rights under a just rule of law.

A leading institution in international **fact-finding**, we produce **expert reports** with key recommendations, delivering timely and reliable information on human rights and the legal profession.

We support lawyers and judges who are arbitrarily harassed, intimidated or arrested through advocacy and trial monitoring.

A focus on pertinent human rights issues, including equality and non-discrimination, poverty and human rights and the independence of the legal profession, forms the basis of targeted capacity building and advocacy projects based on thematic areas





Attendees at the IBA's Annual Conference in Sydney © IBA 2017

ACTIVITIES OVERVIEW

CAPACITY BUILDING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

One of the most valuable tools for ensuring that lawyers maintain independence and exhibit integrity when representing clients is the creation of self-governing professional associations. The IBAHRI provides support and technical assistance to under-resourced and newly established bar associations and law societies worldwide. A vital element of this capacity building is the placement of a legal specialist to work with the associations to strengthen internal operations, secure sustainable financing, ensure compliance with internationally recognised standards, provide training for staff and members, and build links with international and regional organisations.



14 countries



UN PROGRAMME

The IBAHRI launched its United Nations Programme with the aim of informing and fostering lawyers' engagement in UN mechanisms and strengthening the dialogue between states and the legal community on human rights. The UN Programme aims to strengthen international legal frameworks protecting the legal profession by providing expert support to UN human rights mechanisms; raising awareness about UN standards on the role of judges, lawyers and prosecutors, the independence of the judiciary and the situation of legal professionals at country level; and fostering the involvement of lawyers in UN human rights mechanisms by training lawyers and building the capacity of bar associations.



5 continents

TRAINING FOR JUDGES AND LAWYERS

Sharing expertise and skills across international borders is fundamental to strengthening the rule of law and supporting lawyers globally. The IBAHRI and the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights have collaborated on publishing a training manual, Human Rights in the Administration of Justice, which has been translated into four languages (Arabic, English, Portuguese and Spanish) and continues to be used in trainings across all continents. The IBAHRI has also produced training manuals and curricula on international criminal law, human rights and the role of parliaments, and torture prevention.



12
legal
consultants

FACT FINDING

The IBAHRI undertakes fact-finding missions to countries where there is a threat to, or deterioration of, the rule of law, human rights and the independence of the legal profession. Mission reports detailing findings and recommendations are widely distributed to UN bodies, international organisations and other in-country, regional and international stakeholders. Mission findings help to direct the long-term work of the IBAHRI through the development of targeted country initiatives.







mission rapporteurs



ADVOCACY

By making public statements, sending intervention letters, submitting amicus curiae briefs and through its UN Programme, the IBAHRI advocates for lawyers and judges who are arbitrarily harassed, intimidated or arrested as a result of carrying out their professional duties. The IBAHRI will intervene when it feels that human rights or the rule of law are under threat, and also undertakes advocacy in its thematic areas at the UN in Geneva.

INDEPENDENCE OF THE LEGAL PROFESSION

Legal professionals play a fundamental role in facilitating access to justice, ensuring accountability and upholding the rule of law. When the legal profession is unable to function independently or effectively, this gives rise to human rights violations, impunity and injustice. By promoting and protecting the independence of the legal profession, the IBAHRI supports the profession in its role of advocating for justice and human rights. In 2017, the IBAHRI defended legal professionals whose rights were under attack through trainings and trial observations, as well as the use of intervention letters, media statements and other forms of advocacy. The IBAHRI has launched its Lawyers at Risk project under the UN Programme, with the aim of publishing a toolkit for lawyers at risk as a result of their work.



19 ×××××
intervention letters



HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

When the administration of justice fails to operate effectively or has not been designed with a human rights approach, it can give rise to human rights violations and serve to perpetuate impunity. Focusing on the death penalty, torture, enforced disappearances and post-conflict justice, the IBAHRI aims to contribute to the effective and practical implementation of the rule of law and human rights. This provides legal professionals with the tools and knowledge to carry out their work in a way that protects the rights of individuals, seeks justice for victims and provides safeguards to prevent abuse in custodial settings. In 2017, the IBAHRI carried out torture prevention work in the Americas, advocated for the abolition of the death penalty around the world and worked with the legal profession in El Salvador, Syria and Tunisia to provide the tools necessary to effectively achieve justice and realise the right of victims of human rights abuses.



awarded for IBAHRI Trust intern scholarships

EQUALITY AND NON-DISCRIMINATION

Inequality and discrimination are not only human rights violations per se, but also lead to other human rights violations, marginalisation, and inhuman and degrading treatment. It is the legal profession's role to ensure equal protection before the law and access to justice for all, and the IBAHRI is dedicated to working with legal professionals to achieve equality and non-discrimination. Currently, the IBAHRI is focused on mainstreaming a gender perspective into its work, promoting gender parity, protecting the rights of persons with albinism, and opposing discrimination and other breaches of human rights directed at people on the grounds of their sexual orientation or gender identity.





POVERTY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Poverty often denies people their most basic human rights and has a very negative impact on economic, social and cultural rights. Economic and fiscal policies of states, as well as actions by non-state actors that ignore the link between poverty and human rights, are likely to increase social and economic vulnerabilities, negatively impacting the fulfilment of human rights obligations by duty bearers and the entitlements of rights holders. The IBAHRI is seeking to re-frame the global policy debate around poverty reduction and prevention by drawing a link between human rights and poverty, poverty and tax evasion, and the impact of tax abuses on the realisation of human rights. In its report on the obligation to mobilise resources, the IBAHRI focused on the legal obligations of states to mobilise all resources at their disposal, including those that could be collected through taxation or prevention of corruption and illicit financial flows, to satisfy minimum essential levels of human rights. The IBAHRI also focused on the justiciability of economic, social and cultural rights in Tunisia.



WORK BY REGION: AMERICAS

Members of the National Preventive Mechanism take part in trainings on the Istanbul Protocol © IBA 2017

BRAZIL

ABOUT

Overcrowding in Brazil's prisons has been extensively documented and denounced by international organisations, including by the former United Nations Special Rapporteur on Torture, Juan Méndez, who in 2015 called on the Brazilian federal and state authorities to address the issue.

In 2017, the IBAHRI began work with National Preventive Mechanisms (NPMs) in order to enhance the mechanisms' understanding of the Istanbul Protocol for the Investigation and Documentation of Torture. NPMs are created in accordance with Article 17 of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OPCAT) and intended as a domestic tool to prevent torture.

A delegation made up of a legal expert, a medical expert and an expert on psychological torture delivered a three-day intensive training to the staff of the NPM and two representatives from the State Preventive Mechanism (SPM) of Pernambuco (one of the only two existing SPMs in Brazil at the time).

In partnership with the NPM, the IBAHRI's delegation extended its training on the Istanbul Protocol to lawyers, prosecutors, public defenders and medical doctors working in Manaus and Natal, two states where prison conditions were particularly concerning and which had faced severe prison riots at the beginning of the year. As a whole, the project facilitated the NPMs' interaction with judges, public prosecutors and defenders in order to empower them to present recommendations in their reports, which can meet the practical needs of each stakeholder, and be in line with international standards. Moreover, the IBAHRI facilitated opportunities for all types of legal professionals to meet, share experiences and discuss difficult, yet necessary, topics in the practical prevention of torture.



With the support of the Association for the Prevention of Torture and Conectas Direitos Humanos, the IBAHRI and the Anti-Torture Initiative from the Washington College of Law co-organised an expert meeting entitled 'A Model of Investigative Interviewing by Law Enforcement and Attendant Procedural Safeguards'. The roundtable informed discussion among stakeholders in Brazil about ongoing conversations at the international level concerning the development of standards and guidelines on investigative interviewing by police and other law enforcement agencies and the attendant procedural safeguards. The event provided an opportunity for local participants to exchange good practices and lessons learned from their experiences with investigations, interviews, and the implementation of legal and procedural safeguards in practice, and to help foster partnerships among key stakeholders seeking to develop and implement good practices in their work.

'Unfortunately, the riots in Brazil's prisons are a direct consequence of long-term overcrowding, underfunding and systemic failures in ensuring safety and delivering proper assistance to the prison population. That the Brazilian legal profession has a major role to play in improving the prison system is incontestable and the IBAHRI is committed to working alongside Brazil's prominent legal entities to bring about the change needed.'

IBAHRI CO-CHAIR BARONESS HELENA KENNEDY OC



LOOKING FORWARD TO 2018

The Special Fund of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture awarded the IBAHRI a grant to replicate the project in Rio de Janeiro and Santa Catarina. This project will build on the work the IBAHRI carried out this year in Brasília, Manaus and Natal. Moreover, the IBAHRI has proposed to deliver training-of-trainers seminars about the Istanbul Protocol and will work with the NPM as well as members of the SPM to support them in the development of an advocacy and knowledge-dissemination programme focusing on the Istanbul Protocol.

At which point, the IBAHRI will have delivered trainings for participants from all 26 Brazilian states.



KEY FACT

163.2%

prison occupancy level (based on official capacity)



(Source: World Prison Brief, 2018)

PARTNERS



EL SALVADOR

KEY FACT



+23 years

of no justice for victims of crimes committed during El Salvador's 12-year civil war (1980–1992)

ABOUT



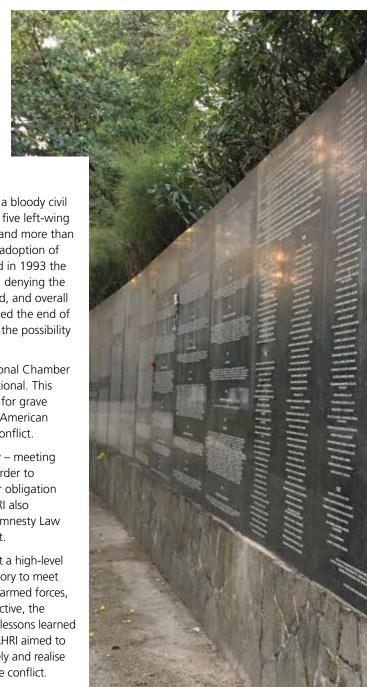
Between 1980 and 1992, El Salvador faced a bloody civil war between state forces and a coalition of five left-wing guerrilla groups that left over 75,000 dead and more than 8,000 missing. The conflict ended with the adoption of the Chapultepec Peace Accords in 1992 and in 1993 the Amnesty Law (Ley de Amnistía) was passed, denying the

victims of the armed conflict the right to have their cases investigated, and overall preventing justice for grave human rights violations. This law facilitated the end of hostilities, but at the cost of denying the families of the disappeared the possibility of knowing the fate of loved ones.

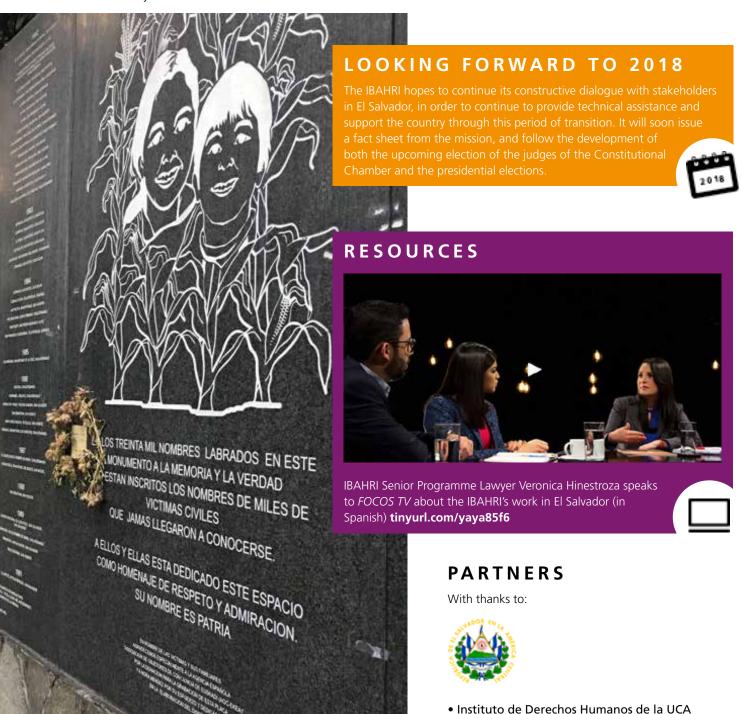
The Amnesty Law was overturned in July 2016, when the Constitutional Chamber of the Salvadoran Supreme Court ruled that the law was unconstitutional. This meant that the state could, and should, prosecute those responsible for grave human rights violations, and fully comply with decisions of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, in five cases related to El Salvador's armed conflict.

In July 2017, the IBAHRI carried out a scoping mission to the country – meeting with the government, civil society organisations and academia – in order to learn how state and non-state actors were preparing to address their obligation to investigate and prosecute past human rights violations. The IBAHRI also attended the follow-up hearing for the sentence that declared the Amnesty Law unconstitutional, and was the only international organisation present.

Following the scoping mission, in December 2017, the IBAHRI brought a high-level delegation of experts on the rights to justice, truth and historical memory to meet with legal professionals, the executive branch of the government, the armed forces, civil society organisations and academia. Informed by a gender perspective, the delegation discussed current national initiatives and brought together lessons learned from similar contexts in the region and worldwide. In this way, the IBAHRI aimed to provide El Salvador with the tools necessary to achieve justice effectively and realise the rights of those who suffered human rights abuses as a result of the conflict.



Monument to Memory and Truth in El Salvador commemorating the victims of the country's civil war © IBA 2017



MEXICO

KEY FACT

63.8%

of the prison population in Mexico report having suffered some form of physical violence at time of arrest

(Source: Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Geografía, 2017)



ABOUT

It has been widely reported that torture is commonly used throughout Mexico in order to obtain confessions and extract information from suspects. The techniques used by public officials include waterboarding, beatings, electric shocks and sexual abuse, and even though the number of torture cases being reported is increasing, the Istanbul Protocol for the Investigation and Documentation of Torture continues to be underused, and also often misused

To tackle the widespread use of torture in Mexico, the government passed a federal law, the *General Law to Prevent, Investigate and Punish Torture*, in June 2017, which will apply to all Mexican states.

In line with its own torture-prevention activities, the IBAHRI hosted a two-day closed expert meeting in March entitled 'Cross-Regional Perspectives on Implementation and the Enhancement of the Istanbul Protocol'. The meeting brought 18 international and ten national experts together to discuss the role of the Istanbul Protocol in combating torture and the lessons learned from its implementation in a number of jurisdictions. Following the expert meeting, the IBAHRI co-organised an open forum with law and forensics faculties from three major universities in Mexico to explore the challenges of implementing the Istanbul Protocol. The forum was attended by over 300 people.

To reinforce these efforts, the IBAHRI and the Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences (Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Social – FLACSO) produced a manual on context analysis for the documentation and investigation of human rights violations. This manual is the first of its kind to have been produced in Spanish.



IBAHRI team members meet with stakeholders in Mexico © FLACSO 2017

RESOURCES

- Torture prevention in Mexico: Building the capacity of the legal profession bit.ly/torture-mex
- The Istanbul Protocol: A Conversation bit.ly/istanbul-conv
- © El Protocolo de Estambul: Una Conversación (in Spanish) bit.ly/estambul-conv
- ① Violations, human rights and context: tools to document and investigate (in Spanish) tinyurl.com/ycjzwa2z









'Torture and ill-treatment in the moments following detention and before detainees are brought before a judge are generalised in Mexico and occur in a context of impunity.'



REPORT OF THE SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON TORTURE, JUAN E MÉNDEZ

LOOKING FORWARD TO 2018

In 2017, the Mexican Congress passed the General Law on Torture and the General Law on Enforced Disappearances, both of which are a positive step towards tackling the country's current record of human rights violations.

The IBAHRI recognises the many challenges the country will face in implementing these laws and will continue to support the Mexican legal profession in its efforts to prevent and punish torture.



PARTNERS













UNITED STATES

ABOUT

Donald J Trump was inaugurated as President of the United States in January 2017. Concerned with some of the rhetoric used and promises made prior to the election, the IBAHRI issued an open letter to President Trump prior to his inauguration, calling on him to prioritise human rights in the US. The letter stated that, 'the United States is no longer the leading model for the rule of law and democracy, as it once was'.

The IBAHRI followed up in October with a second open letter that criticised the President and his administration for actions the IBAHRI felt were 'diametrically opposed to the defence of human rights' and called on the President to 're-evaluate [his] administration's stance towards human rights'.

'We implore you to avoid sacrificing liberties in exchange for hasty promises of a narrow-minded vision of American security and safety. Now that the "torch of truth, liberty and justice" has passed into your hands, we call on you to re-evaluate your administration's stance towards human rights.'

IBAHRI OPEN LETTER TO PRESIDENT TRUMP



RESOURCES

Open letter calls on President-Elect Trump to address declining human rights in the United States **tinyurl.com/yapuoe79**



IBAHRI calls on President Trump to re-evaluate administration's stance on human rights **tinyurl.com/yd28692f**

VENEZUELA

ABOUT



The independence of the legal profession has been under attack in Venezuela for a number of years. This is perfectly demonstrated in the emblematic case of Judge María Lourdes Afiuni, whose trial the IBAHRI has monitored since it began. Threats to the independence of the legal profession have only grown as a judicial, political and humanitarian crisis has engulfed the country.

Judge Afiuni was detained in December 2009 when she was acting as 31st Control Judge of the Caracas Metropolitan Area and was involved in a politically sensitive case, which resulted in then President Hugo Chávez publicly calling for her to be imprisoned for 30 years. She is accused of the crimes of corruption, misuse of authority, collusion with tax evasion and conspiracy to commit crime.

While she was detained at the National Institute for Female Orientation (INOF), Judge Afiuni is alleged to have been the victim of multiple violations including threats against her life, physical integrity and liberty under inadequate conditions of imprisonment, where she is reported to have been raped and tortured.

RESOURCES

IBAHRI calls on Venezuelan government to respect and protect human rights tinyurl.com/ybq2bcbe

In June 2013, she was removed from preventive prison and placed under house arrest. Since then, she has been withdrawn from house arrest, but the charges against her still stand and she is prohibited from leaving the country or using social networks. This year marked the eighth year in the trial against Judge Afiuni, which is one year longer than the longest sentence (seven years) for the crimes for which she is accused.

The IBAHRI continues to monitor the trial of Judge Afiuni and to raise her case among the international community, including with the UN Special Rapporteur on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers.

WORK BY REGION: ASIA PACIFIC

MYANMAR

ABOUT

A self-regulated, independent legal profession is the cornerstone of the rule of law and can play an essential role in the promotion and protection of human rights. With this aim, throughout 2017 the IBAHRI continued to work in Myanmar to strengthen the capacity of the Independent Lawyers' Association of Myanmar (ILAM).

Thanks to a United States Agency for International Development (USAID) grant, the IBAHRI was able to work with ILAM to find a premises for the Association's secretariat, and support the recruitment of an executive director, programme manager and finance officer. An organisational development consultant was also recruited to work with ILAM's secretariat to develop ILAM's standard operating procedures and their capacity in financial and project management, fundraising, communication and other relevant skills.

Since its inception, ILAM's secretariat has worked with the IBAHRI, using USAID funding to set up a website for ILAM and regular newsletter, carry out two continuing professional development trainings for lawyers, establish and fully equip three libraries for lawyers in Monywa, Pathein and

Naypyidaw •

Yangon, as well as host two membership days to attract new members to the Association. They have also organised three meetings of the **ILAM's Central Executive** Committee (CEC). In April 2017, the IBAHRI's Senior Programme Lawyer, Muluka Miti-Drummond, travelled to Myanmar for an oversight mission, where she attended one of the CEC meetings and met with relevant partners.

The IBAHRI continues to work with ILAM on the development of a code of ethics for lawyers, the draft of which is currently undergoing national and international consultation to ensure it meets international human rights standards. The IBAHRI continues to engage with the government regarding the reform of the Bar Council Act, which is the law regulating the legal profession. In December, the IBAHRI's Director, Phillip Tahmindjis, travelled to Myanmar for advocacy meetings with the government and to meet with relevant partners.

The IBAHRI also brought 11 young lawyers from Myanmar to attend the IBA 2017 Annual Conference in Sydney, Australia. Those that attended were members of ILAM, and were able to engage with key topics of international legal practice with the aim of furthering their professional development.

In January, prominent lawyer U Ko Ni was fatally shot when leaving the airport. U Ko Ni was a political advisor to Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy and was instrumental in the establishment of ILAM. In support of his case, the IBAHRI has been running a trial observation programme in Myanmar to ensure that those responsible for his death are brought to justice.

In response to gross violations of human rights taking place against the Rohingya population in Rakhine State, the IBAHRI made a number of statements before the UN Human Rights Council. Delivering oral statements across UN Human Rights Council Sessions 34, 35 and 36, and partnering with organisations including the International Commission of Jurists and Lawyers' Rights Watch Canada, the IBAHRI called on the government of Myanmar to full cooperate with the UN fact-finding mission and on states to use their full diplomatic capabilities to urge the government of Myanmar to immediately stop the violence, allow access for all necessary humanitarian aid, and cooperate fully with the UN fact-finding mission.



LOOKING FORWARD TO 2018

2018

The IBAHRI will finalise work on the code of ethics and advocacy in relation to reform of the Bar Council Act, as well as continue to monitor the trial of assassinated lawyer U Ko Ni.



IBAHRI oral statement on Myanmar at the 36th Session of the Human Rights Council **tinyurl.com/y9u4j8a7**

IBAHRI oral statement to the Special Rapporteur on Myanmar at the 35th Session of the Human Rights Council **tinyurl.com/ybb7wfrg**

IBAHRI joint NGO statement on human rights in Myanmar submitted to the 34th Session of the Human Rights Council **tinyurl.com/y8vvcrqq**

IBAHRI decries fatal shooting of prominent lawyer U Ko Ni in Myanmar and calls for an investigation **tinyurl.com/y8hope2t**

PARTNERS



TIMOR-LESTE

ABOUT



Following a referendum for independence in 1999, violence broke out in Timor-Leste and

eventually boiled over into a fully fledged armed conflict. In order to stabilise the situation, the UN administered the country until 2002. Since then, there has been a process of reconstruction and state building in all sectors, including the judicial sector and legal profession.

Exact figures of the number of lawyers in Timor-Leste are hard to determine. According to the Legal Profession Management and Discipline Council, in 2015 there were 82 Timorese lawyers. There are another 70 foreign law graduates practising as lawyers and many others in legally related roles, and many legal positions (including in the judiciary) have been taken up by non-nationals, largely from Portugal and the other Portuguese-speaking countries.

In 2017, the IBAHRI consolidated its presence in the country by seeking to strengthen the legal profession in Timor-Leste and supporting the creation of its first national bar association. In this way, during 2017 the IBAHRI submitted a number of recommendations to the Timorese Parliament providing analysis on draft laws and by-laws relating to the creation of a national bar association. All of this work was the result of the IBAHRI's continued efforts with local stakeholders and the establishment of a working group of lawyers, which brings together a diverse group of legal professionals and allows them a space to consult and debate on the future of their profession.

Additionally, the IBAHRI organised a national process to select four young Timorese lawyers as recipients of the IBA Developing Bar Programme Award in order to attend the IBA Annual Conference in Sydney, Australia, in October 2017. This incentive was part of an ongoing programme devised by the IBA to assist young lawyers and junior members of the legal profession with their professional development in light of international legal practice.



Lawyers discuss the law for the creation of a national bar association with the Parliamentary Commission © IBAHRI 2017

'It was the first time I attended the IBA
Annual Conference and it was actually my first
participation in an international event outside
Timor-Leste. It was a tremendous opportunity
to discuss interesting and current subjects with
lawyers coming from so many different regions
of the world. It provided me a great opportunity
to share professional knowledge and experiences
with both senior and young lawyers.

As a young Timorese lawyer working in an emerging country and willing to succeed, this was a huge personal and professional experience.'



RECIPIENT OF IBA DEVELOPING BAR PROGRAMME AWARD

WORK BY REGION: EASTERN EUROPE & CENTRAL ASIA

AZERBAIJAN

KEY FACTS



950 registered lawyers



9.7 million
population of
Azerbaijan

Baku •

ABOUT

Since 2013, the IBAHRI has monitored the human rights situation in Azerbaijan and found there to be a low number of lawyers willing and able to take up human rights cases and undertake human rights litigation. Due to pressures and reprisals faced by human rights lawyers and inadequacies in legal education, law students are unlikely to engage in human rights work after they have graduated. Even when not taking into account human rights lawyers, Azerbaijan has a disproportionately small number of registered lawyers for such a large population.

In 2017, the IBAHRI launched a mentorship programme for junior lawyers that linked them with more experienced senior lawyers, with the aim of fostering a new generation of capable and passionate human rights practitioners. In December 2017, the IBAHRI held a Law Student Conference in Baku, Azerbaijan. The IBAHRI also advocated for the rights of legal professionals in Azerbaijan by taking a delegation of Azeri lawyers to the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting on Access to Justice in Vienna; submitting a statement to the Universal Periodic Review of Azerbaijan at the 30th session of the UN Human Rights Council; and taking part at the OSCE Parallel Civil Society Conference in Vienna.



'The programme is accommodating exactly my expectations; my mentor is fully engaged in human rights issues and I can observe all the current human rights-related cases in our country. My gratitude could not be expressed by words, [my mentor] helped me a lot and tried to share all her knowledge and experience.'

YOUNG LAWYER TAKING PART IN MENTORSHIP SCHEME

LOOKING FORWARD TO 2018

and expanding a network of human rights defenders, and attracting youth to



RESOURCES

tinyurl.com/y9gvxr6u



PARTNERS









GEORGIA

ABOUT

In Georgia, there are high rates of domestic violence and a culture of gender inequality. In May 2017, Georgia ratified the Council of Europe's Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence.

In 2017, the IBAHRI took lawyers from Georgia to attend the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe Gender Equality Review Conference in Vienna with the hope of further addressing domestic violence and gender inequality in the country.





PARTNERS

Day in Tbilisi, Georgia, 8 March 2017. REUTERS/David Mdzinarishvili

With thanks to:

• Georgian Bar Association • Georgian Young Lawyers' Association

and combating violence against women and domestic violence, and the crime of domestic violence.

KAZAKHSTAN

ABOUT

Currently, the legal profession in Kazakhstan is the strongest civil society component in the country. The strength of the legal sectors, however, is under threat as the Ministry of Justice attempts to adopt laws that would reduce the independence and self-regulation of Kazakh lawyers and bar associations.

The IBAHRI is working to support lawyers in their fight to maintain an independent legal profession, as well as strengthen their internal capacities and essential legal skills. In 2017, the IBAHRI held a conference in Kazakhstan to establish how to reform and develop the bar associations in the country. The IBAHRI also held trainings for Kazakh lawyers on digital, personal and legal security. In September, the IBAHRI brought Kazakh lawyers to the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Human Dimension Implementation Meeting in Warsaw to discuss ways to guarantee the independence and autonomy of members of the legal profession.

In November 2017, we held a joint side-event at the OSCE Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting on Access to Justice to raise international awareness on the initiated national legal reforms, and their potential impact for the justice sector.

In December, we took a Kazakh lawyer to take part at the OSCE Parallel Civil Society Conference in Vienna, and contribute to the Civil Society Recommendations to the Participants of the OSCE Ministerial Council Meeting in Vienna.



IBAHRI and Kazakh lawyers attend an OSCE meeting © IBA 2017



LOOKING FORWARD TO 2018

In 2018, the IBAHRI will host human rights training workshops for Kazakh lawyers. We also aim to launch a new mentorship scheme for young lawyers to help develop a new wave of human rights lawyers in Kazakhstan.

PARTNERS

- Republican Bar Association Astana Bar Association
- Almaty Bar Association OSCE Programme Office in Astana





TAJIKISTAN

KEY FACTS



602 registered lawyers







7.7 million population of Tajikistan

ABOUT

The IBAHRI has been working in Tajikistan since 2015, when it supported the establishment of a unified, independent, national bar association, the Union of Lawyers. Since then, there have been further reforms that have drastically reduced the number of qualified lawyers in the country and a number of barriers have been put in place to prevent entry into the profession. Beyond that, many human rights lawyers who take on difficult cases face threats and punishments (including imprisonment), which make it very difficult, if not impossible, to perform their professional duties and ensure their clients have access to fair trials.

As a result of these difficulties, the legal profession in Tajikistan is disorganised and very often lawyers lack support, protection and guarantees. By providing trainings to Tajik lawyers on human rights as well as practical issues relating to the legal profession, the IBAHR aims to address these difficulties.

Throughout 2017, we have held a series of trainings for Tajik lawyers on a number of issues, including on the protection of the rights of participants of criminal proceedings, and we also brought Tajik lawyers to the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe Human Dimension Implementation Meetings in Warsaw to hold meetings with other international organisations, lawyers from the region and other potential partners.



'I would like to express my gratitude to the International Bar Association for their cooperation and support. We feel that the destiny of the bar association in Tajikistan is not left aside and the IBA is not partial and really supports and helps us. I hope that this cooperation will be continued and strengthened in the future. I would like to thank all the reps of the IBA.'

SAIDBEK NURITDINOV, PRESIDENT OF THE TAJIKISTAN UNION OF LAWYERS

LOOKING FORWARD TO 2018

The IBAHRI will continue to deliver human rights trainings for lawyers in Tajikistan. We hope to develop a new mentorship scheme aimed at developing a new generation of young human rights lawyers in Tajikistan.

PARTNERS

- Almaty Bar Association
- Astana Bar Association
- Republican Bar Association





WORK BY REGION: MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA

TUNISIA

KEY FACT



of the population in Tunisia living below the poverty line

(Source: World Bank)



ABOUT

The IBAHRI has been working in Tunisia since 2012, in the aftermath of the 2011 revolution. Between 2014 and 2016, the IBAHRI (together with other partner organisations) worked with 1,800 Tunisian judges and prosecutors to raise their awareness of the applicability of international human rights standards to domestic proceedings and the role of a judge in a democratic society.

The IBAHRI identified the judicial enforcement of economic, social and cultural rights as the most pressing need. It was the unequal realisation of socio-economic rights across the country that led to Tunisia's revolution, and the subsequent removal of then President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. This inequality continues to be a cause of instability in the country.

In 2017, the IBAHRI focused on facilitating training and discussions with respect to the justiciability of economic, social and cultural rights in Tunisia. In May, the IBAHRI held a workshop on the justiciability of economic, social and cultural rights in Tunis. Later in the year, in partnership with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the International Legal Assistance Consortium, the IBAHRI contributed to the launch of the OHCHR's manual, *Justiciability of Economic, Social and Economic Rights in Tunisia*. The event was a unique opportunity for legal professionals in Tunisia to discuss the implementation of economic, social and cultural rights in the country.

'In Tunisia, we are aware of international human rights and criminal law, but we don't use them... We. as Tunisian judges, may agree with international human rights law principles, but without acceptable working conditions what difference will it make? We have no offices, no desks, no filing, no security, terrible pay and operate in a miserable, humiliating environment.'



TUNISIAN JUDGE

LOOKING FORWARD TO 2018

In 2018, the IBAHRI hopes to launch a three-year training programme to improve the respect for economic, social and cultural rights in Tunisia. The programme will focus on improving the quality of legal services provided by lawyers advising and/or representing clients in casework involving violations of economic, social and cultural rights, improving the adjudication of these cases before Tunisian administrative courts, and improving economic, social and cultural rights advocacy carried out by Tunisian human rights activists.

PARTNERS





SYRIA

KEY FACTS





ABOUT

In 2017, the crisis in Syria entered its sixth year. During the war, Syrian legal professionals have continued to engage in human rights activities inside and outside Syria through monitoring, documenting and reporting violations of international law related to the conflict and through their engagement in international advocacy.

The IBAHRI recognises that sustaining and strengthening the capacities necessary for the rebuilding of the rule of law and for the upholding of human rights in Syria in the future will be key factors in a successful transition to peace. The IBAHRI has worked on providing Syrian legal professionals with the necessary skills to build their knowledge, confidence and experience with respect to human rights. In 2017, the IBAHRI trained six Syrian lawyers on UN human rights mechanisms and supported them in advocating for human rights in Syria before the UN Human Rights Council.

'I have gained a new and practical knowledge of how to engage as a lawyer and as a human rights defender with the UN mechanisms and institutions, how I can promote and advocate, whether individually or in association with a group, for the protection and realisation of human rights in my country through the UN mechanisms... Furthermore, the Syrian legal community will organise itself in order to engage in a strategic manner with the UN human rights mechanisms.'

UN HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS COURSE PARTICIPANT







PARTNERS





WORK BY REGION: SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

TANZANIA

KEY FACT

Dar es Salaam •



the number of people arrested in connection with the murder of Tundu Lissu, then President of the Tanganyika Law Society

LOOKING FORWARD TO 2018

In 2018, the results of the fact-finding mission will be published in which the IBAHRI and its partners will provide key recommendations on how to maintain the rule of law and ensure the safety of members of the legal profession in the country.

ABOUT

The rule of law is under threat in Tanzania. In the past year, the IBAHRI has received reports of acts of intimidation and violence against members of the legal community, including the shooting of the President of the Tanganyika Law Society (The Bar Association of Tanzania Mainland) by an unknown gunman and the bombing of the law firm IMMMA Advocates. The independence of legal professionals is also under threat as the executive has been accused of arbitrary interference in the running of the Tanganyika Law Society. There was also the arrest and detention of 13 human rights defenders and the apparently arbitrary arrest and charges against the president of the Tanganyika Law Society. The IBAHRI assisted the Tanganyika Law Society in submitting a communication to the Special Rapporteur on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers regarding these concerns.

In October 2017, the IBAHRI undertook a fact-finding mission to Tanzania with the American Bar Association, the International Commission of Jurists, the Pan African Lawyers Union, the East Africa Law Society and the Southern Africa Development Community Lawyers Association to analyse the independence of the legal profession in the country.

PARTNERS

With thanks to:







- Pan African Lawyers Union
- East Africa Law Society
- Southern Africa Development Community Lawyers Association

THEMATIC AREA: HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

TORTURE PREVENTION

ABOUT

Despite being prohibited under international law, torture is widespread throughout the world. Acts of torture are often committed by state agents whose role it is to uphold and enforce the law. Legal professionals are essential to upholding the rule of law and ensuring that reports of torture are investigated properly, perpetrators are brought to justice and victims receive reparations.

The IBAHRI is entering its fifth year of efforts to prevent torture in Mexico. In 2017, the IBAHRI brought together various members of the Mexican legal profession to reaffirm their role in torture prevention. By engaging in capacity building, the IBAHRI hopes to end impunity and ensure justice for victims of torture.

In a letter to the members of the UN Committee against Torture, the IBAHRI called upon members of the UN Committee to investigate claims that 100 men had been detained and tortured in a Chechnya prison due to their real or suspected sexual orientation.

In the lead up to the 2017 International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, the IBAHRI partnered with the UN Office of the High Commissioner to hold a high-profile panel discussion about the absolute prohibition of torture, the damaging repercussions of its practice on the rule of law, and the active role that the legal profession can have in preventing its use and recurrence.

In Mexico, the IBAHRI brought together international and national experts for a meeting on 'Cross-Regional Perspectives on Implementation and the Enhancement of the Istanbul Protocol'. The Istanbul Protocol is a set of international UN standards for the effective investigation and documentation of torture and how it should be reported. The attendees discussed the role the protocol plays in combating torture and how it has been implemented in various jurisdictions. The group also discussed how the legal profession can assist in torture prevention and other practical ways such harm can be prevented.

'I am convinced that the primary role in combating torture is ours, as lawyers. It is our role to insist on adherence to the law and to generate a culture among all legal professionals which promotes the understanding that torture is detrimental to the rule of law.'



JUAN E MÉNDEZ, SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON TORTURE (2010–2016)

LOOKING FORWARD TO 2018

In 2018, the IBAHRI will publish a book on torture prevention in the Americas and continue its work training legal professionals on torture prevention in Brazil. Following on from the meetings organised in Mexico, we will support the development of a supplement to the Istanbul Protocol. The IBAHRI will also bring a group of Tajik lawyers to Geneva for advocacy at a UN Committee against Torture session.

RESOURCES

- ⚠ Torture prevention in Mexico: Building the capacity of the legal profession bit.ly/torture-mex
- B The Istanbul Protocol: A Conversation bit.ly/istanbul-conv
- El Protocolo de Estambul: Una Conversación (in Spanish) bit.ly/estambul-conv







LEGALITY OF ARMED DRONE STRIKES

Considerable controversy surrounds the use of drone strikes. The United States has faced ongoing criticism from human rights groups over its unmanned drone attacks in Pakistan, Somalia and Yemen. The British government also came under attack in 2015 after the targeted killing of two British citizens in Syria. Issues of transparency and accountability abound; states often do not explain their legal interpretations sufficiently or release basic data on their drone programmes, which makes it difficult to assess claims of legality.

On 25 May 2017, the IBAHRI Council adopted a Resolution on the Use of Drones for the Delivery of Lethal Weapons, which expresses concerns about the proliferation of the use of armed drones by states and non-state actors to deliver lethal force, and which calls for clarity and transparency in the application of legal frameworks governing drone strikes.

The Resolution states:

- the use of drones must adhere to the current law governing the use of force;
- whether or not a drone strike occurs in the context of an armed conflict is crucial to assessing its lawfulness.

A Background Paper to the Resolution was also made available, which provides an analysis of the legal framework applicable to the use of drones inside and outside of armed conflict by both state and non-state actors.



IBAHRI Council Resolution on the Use of Drones for the Delivery of Lethal Weapons

Adopted on 25 May 2017

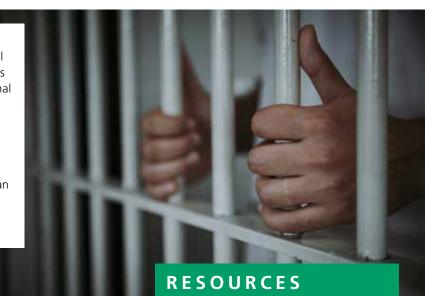
bit.ly/drones-res

The Legality of Armed Drones Under International Law: Background Paper bit.ly/drones-bp



ABOLITION OF THE DEATH PENALTY

The IBAHRI believes that the use of the death penalty is a breach of international law. As well as being contrary to the right to life, executions can also cause significant physical and emotional pain to victims. In our 2008 Resolution, the IBAHRI called for complete abolition of the death penalty and provided recommendations for states that will not immediately remove the practice. In 2017, the IBAHRI delivered a statement to the 34th Session of the UN Human Rights Council where particular focus was given to mandatory death sentences, which contravene international fair trial standards.



IBAHRI statement on death penalty to the 34th Session of the Human Rights Council tinyurl.com/ycu5xolr

POST-CONFLICT JUSTICE

rollowing a conflict, when many institutions and the normal functioning of a modern democracy have collapsed it is essential to re-establish the rule of law in order to ensure the protection of human rights. In 2017, the IBAHRI worked with legal professions in El Salvador, Tunisia and Syria with the aim of ensuring the correct functioning of the rule of law.

In El Salvador, the IBAHRI met with legal professionals, the executive branch of the government, the armed forces, civil society organisations and academia to provide El Salvador with the tools necessary to achieve justice effectively and realise the rights of those who suffered human rights abuses as a result of the conflict that took place between 1980 and 1992.

In Tunisia, the IBAHRI's work has supported the stabilisation of the rule of law in the country following the revolution of 2011. In 2017, the IBAHRI began working with Syrian legal professionals with the aim of strengthening their strategic engagement with national and international human rights and accountability mechanisms.

THEMATIC AREA: EQUALITY AND NON-DISCRIMINATION

SEXUAL ORIENTATION, GENDER IDENTITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

In May 2010, the IBAHRI passed the Resolution on Sexual Orientation and Human Rights. The Resolution recognises that discrimination against anybody on the grounds of their sexual orientation and gender identity is contrary to the fundamental principles of human rights. As a result of this recognition, the IBAHRI is committed to the repeal of criminal laws imposing penalties against people in respect of consensual, adult, private sexual conduct.

This commitment saw the IBAHRI calling for a UN Committee against Torture investigation into the crackdown on the LGBT community by Chechen authorities, who are reported to have detained and tortured as many as 100 men in a secret prison. The IBAHRI then followed up this call with an Oral Statement to the 35th Session of the UN Human Rights Council, which reminded Russia of its obligation to protect all individuals from treatment of this kind. This advocacy work continued when the IBAHRI participated in the side-event on LGBT rights in Chechnya at the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe Human Development Implementation meeting in Poland.

RESOURCES

IBAHRI calls for UN inquiry into alleged human rights violations of Chechen men tinyurl.com/y79qjagx

IBAHRI oral statement to the Independent Expert on SOGI at the 35th Session of the UN Human Rights Council tinyurl.com/y82p4m6k

GENDER AND EQUALITY



IBAHRI speaks at the GQUAL Conference in the Hague © IBA 2017

In 2017, the IBAHRI began the process of mainstreaming a gender perspective into all of its work. As part of this, the IBAHRI joined the GQual campaign for gender parity in international representation, as well as sponsored and spoke at the GQual Conference, Changing the Picture of International Justice, in the Hague in October. The support for the campaign culminated in the signing by IBAHRI Co-Chair Baroness Helena Kennedy QC of the GQual Declaration, which calls for 'the establishment of guidelines, measures, and mechanisms on a national and international level that guarantee gender parity in positions involving international responsibility, including international tribunals and bodies, human rights bodies, Special Procedures, and regional and international organizations'.

ALBINISM

© Stephen Robinson / WILDFOTOAfrica

ABOUT

Persons with albinism are at risk of kidnapping, murder, rape, mutilations and other violations as a result of their genetic condition. Albinism is caused by a lack of pigmentation in the skin, hair and/or eyes of those effected. Particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, poor understanding of the condition has resulted in harmful myths being perpetuated, which put those with albinism at risk of attacks and prevent them from having their rights fully realised.

In its 2017 report, 'Waiting to disappear' International and Regional Standards for the Protection and Promotion of the Human Rights of Persons with Albinism, the IBAHRI found that states are failing to protect persons with albinism from human rights violations, attacks and discrimination. Often, violations go unpunished by governments, with many survivors traumatised and forced to flee their homes, and sometimes their countries, to seek protection elsewhere. In addition, authorities have failed to meet the health and other specific needs of persons with albinism routinely facing prejudice and stigmatisation from local populations. The report was launched at a high-level panel event in London with the UN Independent Expert on Albinism, Ikponwosa Ero.

In 2017, at the 34th Session of the UN Human Rights Council, the IBAHRI gave a statement calling on states to take steps to increase the protection of those with albinism. Particular emphasis was placed on addressing legal gaps that allow perpetrators to go unpunished and discouraging protection measures that violate the rights of persons with albinism. At the 35th Session of the UN Human Rights Council, the IBAHRI highlighted the multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination experienced by persons with albinism, including based on their race, colour and gender, and called on states to ensure that due regard is given to persons with albinism when developing policies and programmes to combat racism, xenophobia and related intolerances.

On 12 June 2017, the IBAHRI participated in the First London Symposium on Albinism in Africa organised by the Josephat Torner Foundation, where an IBAHRI Senior Programme Lawyer presented a session on the duty of states to protect and promote the rights of persons with albinism. A similar presentation was made during a conference held in Johannesburg, South Africa, on the margins of the meeting of Southern Africa heads of states, the Southern African Development Community Summit. In November, the IBAHRI attended the Regional Albinism Meeting in South Africa, where the organisation took up membership of the Task Force on Coordination of the Regional Action Plan, headed by the Independent Expert on Albinism. The IBAHRI's Senior Programme Lawyer also attended the annual disability rights conference, where she led a workshop on strategic litigation for disability rights.





'When I was young, I was told that I would not die.

They said I would disappear because people like me –
people with albinism – are not like other people and
do not die. I spent my childhood waiting to disappear.'

PETER OGIK, SOURCE OF THE NILE UNION OF PERSONS WITH ALBINISM, UGANDA

KEY FACTS

550+

reported attacks against persons with albinism in 29 African countries

US\$75,000

reported price for the corpse of a person with albinism on the black market

RESOURCES

IBAHRI joint statements on albinism submitted to the 34th Session of the Human Rights Council **tinyurl.com/ycu5xolr**

IBAHRI oral statement to the Special Rapporteur on Racism at the 35th Session of the Human Rights Council **tinyurl.com/ydhe2g9g**

(A) 'Waiting to disappear' International and Regional Standards for the Protection of the Human Rights of Persons with Albinism bit.ly/2qlk643

B IBAHRI Albinism report launch event tinyurl.com/ycxyzakq





INDEPENDENCE OF THE LEGAL PROFESSION

'We must not, and cannot, lose sight of the fact that lawyers can face specific hazards as a result of interference, pressures and threats, which may include physical, psychological and social abuses directed against them and their relatives.'

UN SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON THE INDEPENDENCE OF JUDGES AND LAWYERS, DIEGO GARCÍA-SAYÁN

ABOUT

Legal professionals play a fundamental role in facilitating access to justice, ensuring accountability and upholding the rule of law. When the legal profession is unable to function independently or effectively, this gives rise to human rights violations, impunity and injustice. By promoting and protecting the independence of the legal profession, the IBAHRI supports the profession in its role of advocating for justice and human rights.

In 2017, the IBAHRI defended legal professionals whose rights were under attack through trainings and trial observations, as well as the use of intervention letters, media statements and other forms of advocacy.

The IBAHRI continued its observation of the trial of Judge María Lourdes Afiuni in Venezuela, whose trial we have been monitoring since 2012. Following the killing of muslim lawyer U Ko Ni in Myanmar, the IBAHRI began monitoring the trial of the individuals accused of his murder. By having a presence at these trials, the IBAHRI hopes to ensure the right to a fair and public trial through the impartial administration of justice and the proper functioning of the courts. When this is not the case, the IBAHRI will draw attention to irregularities in the administration of justice.

LOOKING FORWARD TO 2018

In 2017, the IBAHRI launched its Lawyers at Risk project under the UN Programme. This work will continue in 2018, with the aim of publishing a toolkit for lawyers who face threats, risks and dangers as a result of their work. The IBAHRI will continue to monitor the trial of those accused of U Ko Ni's murder in Myanmar.

RESOURCES

IBAHRI concerned by arrest of human rights lawyers in Zambia

tinyurl.com/y9e4ks57

IBAHRI decries fatal shooting of prominent lawyer U Ko Ni in Myanmar and calls for an investigation

tinyurl.com/y8hope2t

IBAHRI calls for due process in Cameroon military trial of lawyer Nkongho Felix Agbor-Balla

tinyurl.com/yax2hhct

IBAHRI renews calls for due process in trial of Cameroon lawyer Nkongho Felix Agbor-Balla tinyurl.com/y9484qr9

IBAHRI oral statement on Poland at the 36th Session of the Human Rights Council **tinyurl.com/ybszruar**

IBAHRI calls on Azerbaijan Bar Association to reinstate human rights lawyer immediately tinyurl.com/y9gvxr6u

POVERTY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

ABOUT

The IBAHRI assembled the Task Force on Illicit Financial Flows, Poverty and Human Rights in 2010 with the purpose of determining how illicit financial flows and tax planning regimes affect poverty and economic, social and cultural rights. By establishing this fundamental link between tax abuse, poverty and human rights, the IBAHRI established that tax evasion and avoidance is not a victimless crime and can have a devastating impact on the realisation of human rights.

In 2017, the IBAHRI published *The Obligation to Mobilise Resources:* Bridging Human Rights, Sustainable Development Goals, and Economic and Fiscal Policies as a follow up to its 2013 report *Tax Abuses, Poverty and Human Rights*, which first established the link between tax abuses and their negative impact on human rights.

The report focuses on the legal obligations of states to mobilise all resources at their disposal, including those that could be collected through taxation or prevention of illicit financial flows, to satisfy minimum essential levels of human rights. Further, the report finds that states that facilitate or actively promote tax abuses, at the domestic or cross-border level, may be in violation of international human rights law. The report is based on a detailed examination of UN treaty bodies' and special procedures' views on the current interpretation of the scope and content of this obligation to mobilise resources.

To launch the report, the IBAHRI invited a panel of high-profile speakers to discuss the obligation to mobilise resources. The panel was made up of former UN Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights, Magdalena Sepúlveda Carmona; Member of the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Professor Olivier de Schutter; the Open Society Foundations' Africa Regional Director, Muthoni Wanyeki; Christian Aid's Principal Advisor on the Private Sector, Matti Kohonen; with IBAHRI Senior Programme Lawyer, Muluka Miti-Drummond, as moderator.

RESOURCES

A Report: The Obligation to Mobilise Resources: Bridging Human Rights, Sustainable Development Goals, and Economic and Fiscal Policies tinyurl.com/ycgr87kt

B Video: Launch of The Obligation to Mobilise Resources: Bridging Human Rights, Sustainable Development Goals, and Economic and Fiscal Policies tinyurl.com/ycgr87kt



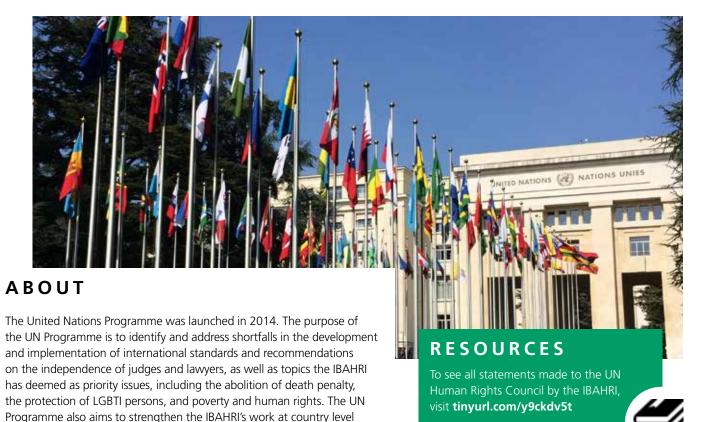


'Contrary to public perception, tax evasion, tax avoidance, tax havens are not victimless crimes. They actually produce very concrete impacts, particularly in developing countries.'

PROF OLIVIER DE SCHUTTER, UN COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

UN PROGRAMME

UN PROGRAMME



The UN Programme has three main components:

• **Advocacy:** Regular expert reports with key recommendations made by the IBAHRI form the basis of work to advance human rights in the administration of justice.

through standards developed by international human rights mechanisms and by gaining support from international state recommendations.

- Capacity building: The IBAHRI aims to develop opportunities for lawyers, judges and bar associations to engage with UN mechanisms on issues relating to judicial independence and the IBAHRI's thematic areas.
- Research and analysis: the IBAHRI's research-based reports aim to inform state policies, advance the implementation of UN recommendations, and inform legal advocacy and capacity building.

Among human rights mechanisms, the work of the IBAHRI focuses on two mechanisms, namely the Special Rapporteur on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers and the Universal Periodic Review (UPR).

COMING UP IN 2018

The IBAHRI will publish a report on the role of the UPR in the promotion and protection of juvenile justice. The report is expected to inform the recommendations made by states at the UPR and foster the involvement of the legal profession in the recommendations and process of the UPR. A key focus of this report will be fair trial rights and inhuman treatment of juveniles, particularly death penalty for crimes committed by those under 18 years of age.

ACTIVITIES IN 2017

Each year the IBAHRI identifies the priorities of the UN Programme, in line with the priorities of the Institute. In 2017, the IBAHRI carried out the following in line with these identified priorities:

POLAND

A letter addressed to the Special Rapporteur on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers drew attention to the worrying reforms to the administration of justice system recently presented by the Polish Parliament. The information successfully informed the country visit of the Rapporteur and supported contact with the Polish Bar Association.

INDEPENDENCE OF JUDGES AND LAWYERS

The IBAHRI advocated for the adoption of a substantial resolution on the independence of judges and lawyers in order to maintain the momentum initiated by states on international standards on the independence of judges and lawyers in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals. The adoption of the Resolution on Independence and Impartiality of the Judiciary, Jurors and Assessors, and the Independence of Lawyers constituted a major advocacy achievement.

SOUTHERN AFRICA DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY (SADC)

Supporting the Coalition for an Effective SADC Tribunal, the IBAHRI raised concerns to the Special Rapporteur on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers regarding the continued suspension of the Southern Africa human rights court, the SADC Tribunal, as well as attempts to remove the human rights jurisdiction of this court.

SYRIA

Six Syrian lawyers who are currently based outside their country received a five-day training in Geneva, focused on human rights and humanitarian law and the practical use of UN human rights and accountability mechanisms. The project served as the pilot for a broader programme aimed at empowering Syrian lawyers to be active stakeholders in the forthcoming transitional justice process and to develop their capacity to engage with international human rights mechanisms.

MYANMAR

The IBAHRI successfully informed the drafting of the HRC/34/L.8 Resolution on Myanmar. The Resolution urged the UN Human Rights Council to establish a fact-finding mission in Myanmar and addressed the need for 'an independent and selfgoverning legal profession in Myanmar'. The IBAHRI further made statements before the 34th, 35th and 36th sessions of the UN Human Rights Council calling upon the government of Myanmar to ensure a prompt, thorough and impartial investigation into the killings of constitutional legal expert, U Ko Ni; raising concern regarding the ongoing violence in Kachin, Rakhine and Shan States; condemning the apparent impunity and calling on the government of Myanmar to fully cooperate with the fact-finding mission: as well as on all states to use their full diplomatic capabilities to urge the government of Myanmar to immediately stop the violence and hold perpetrators accountable.

TANZANIA

The IBAHRI supported the Tanganyika Law Society (The Bar Association of Tanzania Mainland) in submitting a request for communication from the Special Rapporteur on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers concerning the threats against the president of the Association and the threat against thindependence of the legal profession in Tanzania.

SOUTH AFRICA

The IBAHRI worked with the Law Society of South Africa (LSSA) and the Southern Africa Litigation Centre (SALC) to submit a shadow report for the review of South Africa's Universal Periodic Review. Following this submission, the IBAHRI organised a five-day training on human rights mechanisms for a delegation of seven South African lawyers from the LSSA, SALC, Lawyers for Human Rights, South Africa and the Legal Resource Centre, which focused on the UPR and advocacy around it.

MEDIA AND **PUBLICATIONS**

PUBLICATIONS











- A Violations, human rights and context: tools to document and
- tinyurl.com/ycjzwa2z
- **B** 'Waiting to disappear' June 2017
- tinyurl.com/ycdqw7fm

- © IBAHRI Council Resolution on the Use of Drones for the Delivery of Lethal Weapons July 2017 tinyurl.com/yarbwbvt
- **D** The Legality of Armed Drones Under International Law: Background Paper July 2017
- tinyurl.com/yarbwbvt

(E) The Obligation to Mobilise Sustainable Development Goals, and tinyurl.com/ycgr87kt

VIDEOS

- A Torture prevention in Mexico: Building the capacity of the legal profession March 2017 bit.ly/torture-mex
- B The Istanbul Protocol: A Conversation June 2017 bit.ly/istanbul-conv

- C El Protocolo de Estambul: Una Conversación (in Spanish) June 2017 bit.ly/estambul-conv
- D 'Waiting to disappear' International and Regional Standards for the Protection of the Human Rights of Persons with Albinism: Launch event June 2017 tinyurl.com/ycxyzakq
- E Senior Programme Lawyer Veronica Hinestroza speaks to FOCOS TV about the IBAHRI's work in El Salvador (in Spanish) December 2017 tinyurl.com/yaya85f6
- Launch of The Obligation to Mobilise Resources: Bridging Human Rights, Sustainable Development Goals, and Economic and Fiscal Policies December 2017 tinyurl.com/ycgr87kt













NEWS RELEASES

To view all IBAHRI news releases for 2017, visit tinyurl.com/ybjvamtt



GOVERNANCE



Established in 1947, the International Bar Association (IBA) is the world's leading organisation of international legal practitioners, bar associations and law societies. The IBA influences the development of international law and shapes the future of the legal profession throughout the world. It has a membership of over 80,000 individual lawyers and 190 bar associations and law societies spanning all continents. Grouped into two divisions – the Legal Practice

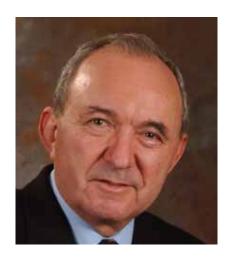
Division (LPD) and the Public and Professional Interest Division (PPID) – the IBA covers all practice areas and professional interests, providing members with access to leading experts and up-to-date information.

The IBA established its Human Rights Institute in 1995 under the honorary presidency of Nelson Mandela, to promote and protect human rights and the independence of the legal profession under a just rule of law. The IBAHRI is an independent entity within the PPID of the IBA. IBAHRI projects are funded by the generous support of its members and funding bodies.

Under the IBAHRI By-Laws, the Institute is governed by an independent council comprising: Co-Chairs, Vice-Chair, Secretary-Treasurer, 12 council members and one representative from the LPD, the IBA Section on Public and Professional Interest, and the IBA Bar Issues Commission.

BAHRI Council members @ IBA 2017

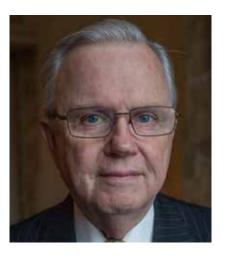
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EXPENDITURE BY REGION



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DONORS

IBAHRI GRANTS, BY THE NUMBERS

30

individual grants awarded to the IBAHRI in 2017 9

different donors in 2017 35

funding applications submitted in 2017 27

projects and programmes funded by grants in 2017

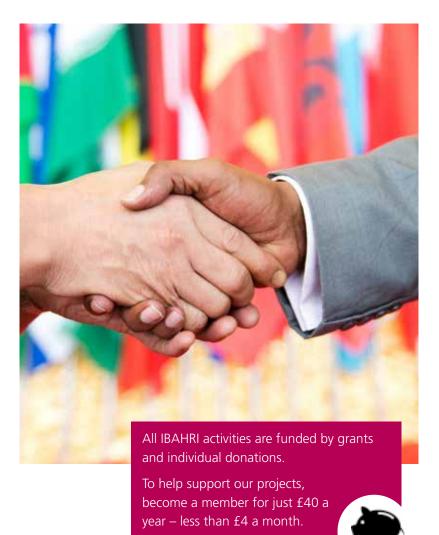
£109,500

largest single grant awarded to the IBAHRI in 2017

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- IBA Special Projects Fund
- National Endowment for Democracy
- Open Society Foundations, Eurasia Program
- Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
- United States Agency for International Development, Promoting the Rule of Law Project



MEET THE TEAM

Dr Phillip Tahmindjis AM Director



Phillip has degrees in Arts and Law from the University of Sydney, a Master of Laws degree from University College London, and a Doctorate from Dalhousie University, Canada. Admitted to the Bar of New South Wales in 1978, Phillip was for 25 years a professor of human rights, teachin and researching in Australia, North America and Hong Kong. He has been a consultant to private industry and government with respect to the

implementation of human rights (particularly with respect to anti-discrimination measures) and is the editor of four books and

the author of several articles in this area, including Sexuality and Human Rights: A Global Overview. At the IBAHRI, he has undertaken projects in Afghanistan, Bhutan, Cambodia, Iraq, Libya, Nepal, Pakistan, Swaziland, Syria, Timor-Leste and Tunisia. He was for three years a member of the Queensland Anti-Discrimination Tribunal

and is a trained mediator. In September 2012, Phillip was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for services to the international community and the law, in particular for his contributions to, and advocacy in respect of the promotion and protection of human rights.

Anna-Maria Balntas Grants Coordinator (Maternity Cover)



Anna-Maria's primary focus is developing relationships with the IBAHRI's funders, including foundations, charitable trusts and institutional donors, within and outside of the United Kingdom. She works collaboratively with the IBAHRI Programme Lawyers and Programme Administrators to design and develop IBAHRI project proposals across all of the IBAHRI's thematic and geographical programming. She

also contributes to the IBAHRI's trial observation programme. Anna-Maria holds an LL.B and an LL.M in Human Rights Law, and is a member of Gray's Inn. Prior to joining the IBAHRI, Anna-Maria ran a nation-wide legal education programme at The Citizenship Foundation and has held research and donor relation roles at think tanks and a political party. Anna-Maria speaks French.

Catherine Brims Programme Coordinator



Catherine oversees the IBAHRI's intervention letter, trial observation and legal internship programmes. In addition, she provides general support to the IBAHRI Director, the IBAHRI Council and Trust, and coordinates the IBAHRI's contribution to the IBA Annual Conference. She has experience as a research officer and administrator in international law, having previously

worked with the Law Council of Australia's International Law and Business Law Sections, its International Division, and the South Pacific Lawyers' Association. Catherine has a Bachelor of Economics and an LL.B (H) in Laws from the Australian National University. She is an Australian-qualified legal practitioner, and is currently entitled to practice in the Australian Capital Territory.

Mahmuda Ali Manager, IBAHRI Administration



Mahmuda heads the IBAHRI's grant project coordination and fundraising roles, supporting the organisation of global trainings, workshops, trial observations, fact-finding and rapid-response missions. She has experience in the Middle East and North Africa region, Southern Africa, Central Asia, South East Asia and the Americas. Working closely with the IBAHRI's Director on operational management for all grant-funded activities, she

liaises with the IBA Office to support risk management, legal specialist placements, consultancies, as well as the recruitment

and onboarding of IBAHRI staff. A Trustee of the International Law Book Facility, Mahmuda has served over ten years as the IBA's representative and worked to establish many of the current operational practices in use by the law book recycling charity. Mahmuda studied Law at London Guildhall, holds a BA (Hons) in History from Goldsmiths' College,

University of London and is a Fellow of the Salzburg Global Seminar on Islamic Law. She is a PRINCE2 qualified practitioner and before joining the IBA in 2003, Mahmuda worked for the Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture, UK, the British Council, UK and Amnesty International, Oslo.

Natacha Bracq Programme Lawyer



Natacha is a registered lawyer with the Paris Bar and manages the IBAHRI's work in the Middle East and North Africa region. Her expertise encompasses international human rights, international humanitarian and criminal law, and business and human rights. Over the last four years she has worked before various international tribunals including the International Court of Justice, the International Criminal Tribunal for the former

Yugoslavia and the International Criminal Court (ICC). She also coordinated a project on the compliance of Ukrainian legislation

and prosecutions of international crimes with international human rights and humanitarian law standards. She worked on a project providing advisory services to the Bangladeshi garment industry on business and human rights and implementation of the UN Guiding Principles. She also took part in the drafting of a business and human rights

training programme for the Council of Europe. Natacha has published a book on the consequences of sea level rise on statehood and contributed to a book on environmental migration, as well as work on victim's participation at the ICC. She is fluent in French and English.

Aurora Garcia Programme Administrator



Aurora joined the IBAHRI in 2009. Aurora coordinates the implementation of the IBAHRI's capacity-building programmes, fact-finding missions and trial observations, as well as supporting the IBAHRI's legal specialist programmes. She contributes to the creation of budgets for new funding proposals and supports financial grant reporting to donors. Aurora holds a BA in Tourism from the University of Girona,

has completed Florida State University's International Human Rights Law course and attended training on European Union funding. In 2017, she took a course on 'Managing the Project Cycle' at Bond and travelled to Georgia and Azerbaijan to assist the IBAHRI projects. Aurora speaks Catalan and Spanish.

Eleni Hagisoteri Programme Administrator



Eleni joined the programme coordination team in March 2017. She coordinates the IBAHRI's capacity-building programmes, fact-finding missions and trial observations, as well as providing support to the IBAHRI's in-country legal experts and the longer term legal specialist programmes. Eleni supports the IBAHRI's grant-seeking work by producing budgets for new funding proposals and aiding in financial grant

reporting to donors. Eleni has a keen interest in human rights work and women's empowerment programmes.

Jurate Guzeviciute Programme Lawyer



Jurate is a lawyer with nine years' experience in national and international human rights, humanitarian and criminal law. At the IBAHRI, Jurate covers the Eastern Europe and Central Asia region, where she works with legal professionals and human rights defenders to establish greater respect for human rights and the rule of law. Before joining the IBAHRI, Jurate worked as a legal director at a human rights

non-governmental organisation in Lithuania, where she managed legal programmes and supervised litigation work. Jurate has led strategic litigation on domestic violence, discrimination, disability rights, inclusive education, rights of unaccompanied minors (illegal detention), hate speech and more. She has conducted research into rights of hate crime victims, gender equality and state-guaranteed legal aid. Jurate holds an LL.M degree in Public International Law from Leiden University, the Netherlands, and a Master of Laws degree from Vilnius University, Lithuania. Jurate has also worked with a defence team at the UN International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia in the Hague, and interned at the DG Humanitarian Aid at the European Commission in Brussels. Jurate speaks Lithuanian and Russian.

Veronica Hinestroza Senior Programme Lawyer



Veronica manages the IBAHRI's work in Latin America and Timor-Leste. Veronica's thematic work has a particular focus on human rights in the administration of justice. Mainstreaming a gender perspective, she designs and implements projects on torture prevention, enforced disappearances and post-conflict justice. Veronica also serves as a member of the Steering Committee for the development of a set of universal standards for non-coercive

interviewing and procedural safeguards. For 14 years, before joining the IBAHRI, Veronica worked with intergovernmental organisations, non-governmental organisations and international cooperation agencies on a range of human rights issues across different jurisdictions, including the Inter-American Human Rights System, the International Criminal Court and the Colombian justice and peace process. In parallel to this work, Veronica was a researcher and lecturer on transitional justice at the Universidad Externado de Colombia. She has published works addressing comparative transitional

processes, child soldiers, women's empowerment in conflict settings, and the links between social development and human rights law. Veronica holds an LL.M in International Human Rights Law from the University of Essex, an MA in Development Studies, and a BA in Government and International Relations. Veronica speaks Spanish and Portuguese.

Marianne Ibrahim Grants Accountant



Marianne joined the IBA in 2017. Marianne studied for a BA (Hons) Degree in Economics at the University of Kent at Canterbury. She worked in a number of accounting roles before starting to work with GLL, the UK's largest leisure trust, in 2004. While at GLL she started studying for her Association of Chartered Certified Accountants qualification, which she gained in 2011. Marianne works closely with the IBAHRI in

accounting for grant expenditure, monitoring of project budgets, cost controls and the production of final and interim reports for the IBA's grant funders.

Alex Nelia Grants Coordinator



Alex is responsible for developing relationships with the IBAHRI's funders, including trusts, foundations and institutional donors. She works with the IBAHRI Programme Lawyers and the IBAHRI Programme Administrators to design and articulate the IBAHRI's project proposals. Prior to joining the IBAHRI, Alex worked at the John Smith Trust and for the Open Society Foundations European Council on Foreign Relations. She

holds a Bachelor of Laws from King's College London and has a Certificate of Higher Education in Legal Methods from Birkbeck University. Alex is a contributor to the Bulletin of the European Human Rights Advocacy Centre. Alex speaks Polish.

Muluka Miti-Drummond Senior Programme Lawyer



At the IBAHRI, Muluka is responsible for managing a range of country-specific and thematic programmes, which include heading the IBAHRI's engagement in Myanmar and sub-Saharan Africa, coordinating the work of the Task Force on the Enjoyment of Rights by Persons with Albinism and managing the IBAHRI's representation at the UN in Geneva. She holds an LL.M in International Law from

the University of Pretoria, an LL.B from the University of Venda and an MSc in Development Management from the Open University. She was previously the Regional Advocacy Director at the Southern Africa Litigation Centre and has also worked as the Researcher for Portuguese and Spanish Speaking African Countries at Amnesty International, a consultant for the International Organisation for Migration and as a legal expert at the Universidade Católica de Moçambique. Muluka speaks Portuguese and Spanish.

Alfonso Redondo Communications Coordinator



Alfonso joined the IBAHRI in 2014 having worked at a number of charities and international organisations in various communications roles. He is responsible for all aspects of the IBAHRI's external communications, including the maintenance of the IBAHRI's webpages and social media channels, producing and distributing news releases, newsletters and other multimedia

content, and coordinating profile-raising events. Alfonso has a BA in Sociology and Journalism from Cardiff University as well as an MSc in International Public Policy from University College London. He speaks Spanish, French and German.

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INTERNS 2017



We are extremely grateful to all the interns who participated in the 2017 internship programme, providing a remarkable contribution in supporting the IBAHRI staff and projects.

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Chris McNulty

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Mayra Quispe

Joud Saeb

Elettra Scrivo

Rosie Slowe

Tatiana Stryzheuskaya

IBAHRI interns are based in the IBA London office on voluntary placements and work on a range of research and IBAHRI programmatic tasks.

To find out more about the IBAHRI internships and how to apply, visit tinyurl.com/IBA-InternshipProgramme

BAHRI Interns @ IBA 2017



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