

# ANNUAL REPORT 2015

LATIN AMERICAN NETWORK FOR GENOCIDE AND MASS ATROCITY PREVENTION

Prepared by the Technical Secretariat of the Latin American Network (the Auschwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation)



The Latin American Network for Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention was created in 2012 as an initiative led by the governments of Argentina and Brazil and is currently made up of representatives from state institutions of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, México, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela.

It is a collaborative effort made by Latin American states that aims to build the regional and national foundations necessary for the prevention of genocide and mass atrocities. Additionally, it aims to empower Latin American states to become leaders in prevention on the international scene.

The initiative relies on support from the Auschwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (AIPR), from the United Nation Office of the Special Adviser for the Prevention of Genocide (OSAPG) and from the Stanley Foundation. In this context, AIPR works according to a curricular proposal that includes a framework for bi-annual seminars. The original proposal planned for three cycles of these seminars, taking place on the following dates:

## **First cycle (concluded)**

June 2013 in Auschwitz, Poland

June 2014 in Buenos Aires, Argentina

## **Second cycle (concluded)**

October 2014, Auschwitz, Poland

May 2015, Santiago, Chile

## **Third cycle (in progress)**

February 2016, Auschwitz, Poland

May 2016, Brasilia, Brazil

These activities provide an opportunity for the revision of the initial proposal, drafted by the participants of each member country of the Network.

In addition to the training component, the Focal Points are charged with the task of identifying areas within their respective national agendas in which programs and initiatives on the prevention of genocide and mass atrocities can be implemented.

2015 was, without a doubt, a time of consolidation for the Network. This was provided for with the adoption of the Declaration of the Latin American Network for Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention, a significant advance which took place at the IV Focal Points Meeting on May 29, 2015 in Santiago, Chile.

As a result of this, and its responsibility of working at the direction of the Focal Points, the Technical Secretariat of the Latin American Network (AIPR) has oriented its efforts towards the strengthening the institution of the Network and raising its visibility. Such efforts are reflected throughout this report.

This Annual Report outlines the actions that took place at the national, regional and international levels for the prevention of genocide, with assistance as well as financial, logistical and institutional support by the Technical Secretariat of the Latin American Network for Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention (AIPR) in 2015.

## List of Activities

### Launch of the 2014 Annual Report of the Latin American Network for Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention



La Red Latinoamericana para la Prevención del Genocidio y Atrocidades Masivas fue creada en el año 2010 por iniciativa de los gobiernos de Argentina y Brasil y está integrada por representantes de Ministerios Nacionales y Defensorías del Pueblo de Argentina, Bolivia, Brasil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, República Dominicana, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, México, Nicaragua, Panamá, Paraguay, Perú, Uruguay y Venezuela. Se trata de un esfuerzo gubernamental de los países de América Latina, destinado a construir las bases regionales y nacionales para la prevención del genocidio y las atrocidades masivas, así como el empoderamiento de los Estados latinoamericanos de manera que se desarrollen como líderes en la materia dentro del espacio internacional. La iniciativa cuenta con el apoyo del Auschwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (AIPR), de la Oficina del Asesor Especial para la Prevención del Genocidio de las Naciones Unidas (OSAPG) por sus roles en inglés y de la Fundación Stanley. Bajo este liderazgo regional, AIPR facilitó el desarrollo de una propuesta curricular para el componente educativo, que fue presentada a los países participantes en la Primera Reunión para la Planificación de la Red.

Esta reunión se llevó a cabo en Buenos Aires, Argentina, en marzo 2012, allí los representantes de los Ministerios de Relaciones Exteriores, Defensa, Justicia y las Procuradurías y Defensorías del Pueblo de los 18 países miembros se reunieron para dialogar sobre el desarrollo de políticas futuras y para recibir una capacitación en prevención del genocidio.

Las metas de la Red están dirigidas al desarrollo y la implementación de un currículum referente a la prevención del genocidio en ciertos programas de capacitación al obligatorios dentro de las instituciones participantes en cada país miembro, así como a la cooperación regional y al desarrollo de iniciativas nacionales para la prevención del genocidio.

El currículum de América Latina en materia de prevención del genocidio y atrocidades masivas se está poniendo en práctica a través de seminarios bi-anales llevados a cabo en Auschwitz, Polonia, y otros sitios previamente determinados de América Latina, donde tuvieron lugar atrocidades masivas. Allí, el currículum propuesto es revisado y puesto a prueba por participantes de cada país miembro. A lo largo de este proceso, los participantes colaboran con sus puntos focales y los Mecanismos Nacionales existentes para facilitar la implementación a nivel nacional del currículum dentro de sus respectivos países después de 2016. Hasta el momento se completó la primera edición del Seminario para América Latina (Polonia/2013-Argentina/2014) y se va a iniciar la segunda en el mes de octubre de 2014 (o su culminación tendrá lugar a mediados de 2015).

Más allá del componente educativo, cada país miembro ha asumido la tarea de identificar áreas dentro de su estructura de gobierno, en donde pueden ser implementados programas de prevención del genocidio y atrocidades masivas. Estas iniciativas nacionales van desde el establecimiento interinstitucional de seminarios de prevención del genocidio, hasta el desarrollo de políticas de protección de la población indígena y de grupos en situación de vulnerabilidad.

La Red, con el apoyo técnico de la Secretaría Técnica (Instituto Auschwitz para la Paz y la Reconciliación) está trabajando activamente en la promoción a nivel internacional del trabajo de los Estados latinoamericanos en esta área y en hacer sus voces centrales en el trabajo internacional para la prevención del genocidio y atrocidades masivas.



The launch of the Annual Report of the Technical Secretariat of the Latin American Network for Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention took place on May 4, 2014, in New York. The report describes the activities realized by the Technical Secretariat in its assistive role to the member states of the Network in 2014.

Representatives of Permanent Missions to the UN, including several member countries of the Latin American Network, attended the event. The formal presentation of the Annual Report was made by Dr. Tibi Galis, Executive Director of AIPR, Mario Buil-Merce, Political Affairs Officer at the OSAPG, Owen Pell, Partner at White & Case LLP, Jennifer Smyser, Director of Policy Programming Strategy at the Stanley Foundation. Stephanie Alvarez, AIPR’s Coordinator of Latin American Programs and Maria Eugenia Carbone, AIPR’s Director of Latin American Programs and Technical Secretary of the Latin American Network gave a presentation on the Network and a description of the activities contained in the Annual Report.

In his remarks, Mr. Buil-Merce described the manner in which the Network derives its strength from the flexibility given to each member country to prioritize issues deemed most important and relevant within its unique national context. Jennifer Smyser observed that the report “reflects how, in 2014, through trainings and network meetings, member nations of the Network collectively and individually made tremendous strides” and mentioned that the members of the Network have “effectively enabled peer engagement and dialogue, encouraged education and sharing of best practices in a regional context, and expanded their capacity to support each other in policy development and implementation.”

The presentation of the 2015 Annual Report is planned for March of 2016 in New York.

### Conclusion of the Second Cycle of the Raphael Lemkin Seminar on the Prevention of Genocide for Latin America



Between 25 and 28 of May, 2015, the second part of the second cycle of the Raphael Lemkin Seminar for the Prevention of Genocide for Latin America took place in Santiago, Chile. This marked the completion of the two initial cycles of the training tool agreed upon within the framework of the Latin American Network. The remaining cycle, the third in the series, will begin in Oswiecim, Poland, in February of 2016 and will conclude in the city of Brasilia, Brazil, in May of 2016.

This second cycle was made possible by support from the Auschwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation, the Ministry of Foreign Relations of Chile, the UN Office of the Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide, and the Stanley Foundation.

## **Organization of the IV Focal Points Meeting of the Latin American Network for Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention**

The organization of the IV Focal Points Meeting of the Latin American Network for Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention, which took place on May 29, 2015 in Santiago, Chile, was coordinated by the Technical Secretariat of the Network. In addition to convening the meeting and providing logistical coordination, the Technical Secretariat, together with the Ministry of Foreign Relations of Chile (co-organizer of the event), formulated the agenda, identified relevant individuals to serve as observers, and developed and circulated substantive documents that were evaluated within the structure of the IV Focal Points Meeting.



During the meeting, national initiatives that had been carried out as well as those which had been planned for the second half of the year were discussed. An update was shared on the state of the research project “Rights Relative to Indigenous Peoples and Atrocity Crimes”, which was presented by the OSAPG in December of 2014. The proposal made by AIPR for the project “Education for the Prevention of Mass Atrocities in Latin America” was also analyzed.

The meeting in Chile facilitated interactive dialogue between Focal Points for the adoption of a document that reflects the history, objectives, and spirit that inspired the created of the Network.

## **Adoption of the Declaration of the Latin American Network for Genocide and Mass Atrocities, Chile, May 29, 2015**

The Declaration of the Latin American Network was adopted within the framework of the IV Focal Points Meeting of the Network that took place on May 29, 2015 in Santiago, Chile and represents a further step towards the consolidation and formalization of the objectives and areas of work agreed upon by the Focal Points at the launch of the Network in March of 2012.

The adoption of the Declaration was recognized by the UN Special Adviser for the Prevention of Genocide, Adama Dieng, who acknowledged the accomplishments of the Network in a letter sent to member countries, which noted that:

*After more than three years of experience, the Network has become a global reference for good practices. It not only constitutes an example of partnership among states. It is also an example of how different actors can work together to achieve common objectives. The Network provides a model that actors in other regions of the world can refer to. The remarkable progress of the Network constitutes as much an opportunity as a responsibility. Let us continue working to make the Network a vibrant, operational and effective platform for atrocity prevention.*

### **Participation of the Technical Secretariat in the Fifth Annual Meeting of the Global Network of R2P Focal Points**

The Technical Secretariat of the Latin American Network participated in the Fifth Meeting of the Global Network of R2P Focal Points with the goal of sharing best practices in structuring the Latin American Network and for the monitoring of actions implemented within this framework. The Meeting was organized by the governments of Spain and Chile and relied on the support of the Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect and the Stanley Foundation.

### **Participation of the Technical Secretariat in the Second Meeting of Focal Points of the UNESCO Latin America and Caribbean Network for Education about the Holocaust and Genocide**

On July 29-30, 2015, the Second Meeting of Focal Points of the UNESCO Latin America and Caribbean Network for Education about the Holocaust and Genocide took place in Santiago, Chile. Organized by UNESCO, this meeting constituted an opportunity to follow-up on previous commitments adopted by Focal Points of Ministries of Education from the following Latin American Network countries: Argentina, Chile, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, and Uruguay.



The Second Meeting of the UNESCO Network also served as an opportunity to present progress made on activities developed by the Focal Points at the national level as well as to discuss designs for future initiatives and regional activities on the topic of education about the Holocaust and other genocides.

The Auschwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation, in its role as the Technical Secretariat of the Latin American Network for Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention, was invited to participate as an observer at the event. In this context, AIPR was given the opportunity to make a presentation on the Latin American Network, including its history, objectives, developments and challenges. The meeting was held to seek points of convergence and encourage more active institutional contact between the two networks. In that sense, the objectives were amply fulfilled and successfully gave visibility to, and shared information on, both networks. The meeting also allowed for the circulation of contact information to the Focal Points of the UNESCO Network, who could function as actors or relevant developmental partners in future activities focusing on prevention.

The presentation on the Latin American Network for Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention was developed jointly by the Technical Secretariat and Jaime Godoy, who, as a Focal Point of the Latin American Network, shared Chile's experience working on these issues.



## **Planning of Activities within the Framework of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Iberoamerican Federation of the Ombudsman and the Auschwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation**

In the context of the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Iberoamerican Federation of the Ombudsman (FIO) and AIPR aimed towards developing tools for cooperation in training and research for the prevention of genocide and mass atrocities. The project, “Historical Memory and Transitional Justice for the Latin American Ombudsman: goals and challenges”, has entered the planning stages. This proposal plans for the development of a report that compiles the experiences and the challenges of Ombudsman’s Offices in the region in the context of processes and policies on memory, truth, and justice.

## **Participation of the Technical Secretariat in the High-Level Dialogue on Guarantees of Non-Repitition: Challenges and Lessons on the Prevention of Mass Violations of Human Rights**

On October 14 and 15, 2015, the Auschwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (AIPR), in its role as Technical Secretariat of the Latin American Network for Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention, participated in an event entitled “High-Level Policy Dialogue on Guarantees of Non-Recurrence: From Aspiration to Policy – Challenges and Lessons Learned in Preventing Human Rights Violation”. The Dialogue, organized by the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Promotion of Truth, Justice, Reparation and Guarantees of Non-Recurrence and the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs, took place in Stockholm.

The meeting worked to encourage an interactive dialogue between relevant government actors and representatives of civil society in relation to challenges in implementing policies that function to prevent significant human rights violations as part of a comprehensive working policy of non-repetition. The activity, in turn, provided a suitable framework for identifying concrete actions that allow for the linking of different existing efforts for prevention (initiatives, networks, and mechanisms) with the goal of creating synergy and ensuring that they have a greater impact in society.

In this context, the Latin American efforts presented at the Dialogue centered on the development of a coordinated policy for the prevention of atrocities through the creation and consolidation of the Latin American Network for Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention as a regional tool for training and cooperation in prevention. The presentation accounted for the advantages of coordinated work between state institutions, bodies of civil society, and the continuing collaboration of the Office of the UN Special Adviser for the Prevention of Genocide and the Responsibility to Protect, as a best practice for inspiring the participation of relevant actors at the global level in the incorporation of a focus on prevention in public policies related to human rights.

### **Institutional Linking with the Mercosur Institute of Public Policy on Human Rights (IPPDH)**

From within the framework of the proposals written by the Focal Points of the Latin American Network came two initiatives which aspire to explore opportunities for cooperation and to initiate joint work with bodies and institutions of human rights representative of the region (among them, the IPPDH), as well as towards the development of technical tools. These tools serve as compliments to, and mechanisms of visibility for, the Raphael Lemkin Seminars for Latin America, national seminars, and other activities and publications produced under the banner of the Latin American Network.

In this context, the necessary steps are being carried out for the signing of a letter of Intent between IPPDH and AIPR (in its role as Technical Secretariat of the Network) with the goal progressively advancing an agenda of cooperation on educational and research projects in human rights with a focus on the prevention of atrocities in the region. This document will give a formal structure for the development and implementation of technological platforms that allow for the circulation and organization of the virtual courses, which serve as support tools for curricular development on human rights and the prevention of genocide at the national level.

This initiative was presented to the Permanent Commission on Memory, Truth and Justice at the Meeting of High Authorities on Human Rights of Mercosur in the context of Brazil's status as President Pro Tempore. Following this presentation, the aforementioned Commission, with the support of the Office of Human Rights of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Paraguay, coordinated a presentation of the initiative during a joint meeting between the Permanent Commissions on Memory, Truth and Justice, Education and Culture and Discrimination, Racism and Xenophobia. This second meeting took place on November 25 in Asunción, where it was decided to give IPPDH, alongside the Technical Secretariat of the Latin American Network, the responsibility of following-up on these initiatives.

### **Meeting of High Level Human Rights Authorities of MERCOSUR (RAADH)**

Continuing the efforts for the institutional consolidation of the Latin American Network, with the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Paraguay (President Pro Tempore of Mercosur), the Technical Secretariat of the Latin American Network participated in the XXVII Meeting of High Level Human Rights Authorities and Foreign Ministries of MERCOSUR.

The meeting took place on November 26 in Asunción, and provided an opportunity to raise awareness of the activities and objectives of the Latin American Network as well as its collaborative efforts with IPPDH, which are being developed for the implementation of training activities for government officials. These efforts began during the Brazil's Pro Tempore Presidency and are being continued by Paraguay, in its term, in order to raise visibility, coordinate, and strengthen existing regional forums and institutions of human rights.

## Efforts in Support of National Initiatives

### Panama

The seminar “Tools for the Prevention of Genocide and Mass Atrocities” took place on March 24 and 25, 2015, in Panama, under the banner of the Latin American Network for Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention. The objectives of this activity were oriented towards raising awareness among national public officials on the importance of prevention in their role and status as relevant actors in society.

The Ombudsman of Panama, the seminar organizer, identified institutions of public security as the primary beneficiaries of the activity. The audience was composed of officials of the National Police, National Borders Service, National Aero-Naval Service and the System of Institutional Protection.

On the first day, the concepts of genocide and mass atrocities were developed and the legal frameworks and existing regional tools for their prevention were discussed. The Latin American Network was presented within this context as concrete tool of intergovernmental coordination. On the second day, the Ombudsman of Panama made a presentation that discussed Panama’s challenges in the context of the Latin American Network, addressing the situation and the framework for action developed by the Ombudsman in respect to local indigenous communities.

The attending representative of OSAPG presented the framework for analysis developed by the Office, as well as the concrete tools for early warning in the context of the United Nations.

In her presentation, the Ombudsman of Panama, Mrs. Lilia Herrera Mow, expressed her institution’s commitment to the promotion and improvement of human rights in Panama and highlighted the importance of sharing this endeavor with institutions related to public security.



### Argentina & Honduras

On May 11, 2015, the Second Videoconference on “Tools for the Implementation of a National Plan to Combat Discrimination with an Atrocity Prevention Approach” between Argentina and the Republic of Honduras took place. The event was a joint activity within the framework of the Latin American Network for Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention.

The event was organized by the General Directorate of Human Rights of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship of Argentina and the Office of Human Rights and Culture of Peace of the Secretariat of Human Rights, Justice, Interior and Decentralization of Honduras, with the support of the Technical Secretariat of the Latin American Network.



Clarisa Morales, Undersecretary of State in the Ministry of Interior and Decentralization of Honduras inaugurated the event alongside Maritza O'Hara, Director of Human Rights Education and Culture of Peace (Focal Point of the Latin American Network). The General Directorate of Human Rights of the MFA of Argentina was represented by Subdirector María Gabriela Quinteros, along with Nelson Martín and Eduardo Cavallero. The event also featured officials from Argentina from the National Institute Against Discrimination, Xenophobia and Racism. Officials included: Ms. Julia Contreras (Director of Promotion and Development of Practices Against Discrimination (INADI) and Dr. Julian Diaz Bardelli (Director of Victim Assistance INADI).



The audience was made up of officials from the Ministry of Human Rights, Justice, Governance, and Decentralization (SDHJGD), the National Registry of Persons, National Vocational Training Institute (INFOP), Ministry of Security, Ministry of Defence through the Directorate Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law, and the National Commissioner for Human Rights. Additionally, there was participation from representatives of the United Nations Development Program and the Embassy of Argentina in Honduras. Civil society was also present, through the assistance of the Centre for Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture Victims and their Families (CPTRT).

This activity was a continuation of the video conference held in October 2014, in which details regarding the planning process and implementation of the National Plan against Discrimination of Argentina were shared. This second videoconference included two distinct segments: the first was a presentation of the overall plan, and the second was an interactive dialogue between officials of Argentina and Honduras in which specific issues and questions were addressed. The importance of a partnership between civil society and government institutions was highlighted. Additionally, the existence of rules, as well as tools of education, as essential pillars in the fight against discrimination was discussed.

Representatives from Honduras and Argentina agreed to continue developing joint activities with the technical support of INADI.

## Guatemala

On April 21, 2015, the Technical Secretariat of the Network participated in a discussion held at the Vice-Ministry for the Prevention of Violence and Crime in Guatemala. The activity aimed at informing national public officials about the objectives and work of the Latin American Network, and promoted an interactive dialogue about the challenge and possible courses of action for the incorporation of a prevention focus within the national public policy agenda.

High-Ranking Public officials from the Vice-Ministry for the Prevention of Violence and Crime, the Presidential Commission of Human Rights (COPREDH), the Office of the Ombudsman of Human Rights of Guatemala, as well as various representatives from working groups within these three institutions attended the event. The activity was moderated by the the Guatemalan Network Focal Point representative.



Throughout the day, participants showed interest in the different areas of the Network's work. They agreed on the importance of the continuation of a regional agenda on training in prevention of genocide and mass atrocities (Raphael Lemkin Seminar for the Latin American Network), as well as training at the national level.

### **El Salvador - Seminar-Workshop on Tools for the Prevention of Genocide and Other Mass Atrocities as Grave Violations of Human Rights**

A Seminar-Workshop entitled "Tools for the Prevention of Genocide and Other Mass Atrocities as Grave Violations of Human Rights" was held in San Salvador, El Salvador on June 8-9, 2015. The event was organized by the Office of the Ombudsman for the Defense of Human Rights, and had the support of AIPR, as well as the UN Office of the Special Adviser for the Prevention of Genocide (OSAPG).

The event was attended by various public officials from different government entities, as well as representatives from local human rights non-governmental organizations. Public officials and civil society representatives discussed the importance of prevention within their roles as relevant societal actors. The workshop included the participation of Mariam Ábrego, a victim of the armed conflict in El Salvador, and tireless defender of truth, justice, and human rights. Prosecutor David Morales gave a presentation on the national-level challenges that El Salvador faces on the subject of memory, truth, and justice. He identified himself to the Latin American Network as a tool for intergovernmental coordination.



The second day featured a representative from OSAPG, who presented the Framework of Analysis developed by the UN Office and discussed concrete early warning tools within the context of the UN.

### **Ecuador-Paraguay - Joint Initiative Related to Memory, Truth, Justice, and Reparations**

The Office of Ombudsman of Paraguay (Focal Point of the Network), with the support of the Auschwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation, participated in a panel discussion, "Transitional Justice in the Development of Processes for Victim Reparation: An International Experience", organized by the Office of the Ombudsman of Ecuador. This initiative is part of one of the goals of the Network to establish itself as a forum for the exchange of experiences and best practices.



On June 12, 2015, the workshop, "Prevention of Genocide and Transitional Justice" took place. The event was geared towards officials from the Office of the Ombudsman of Ecuador. At the event, concepts and materials related to the prevention of genocide were presented. The workshop focused on the experience of Ecuador and Paraguay on matters related to memory, truth and justice, as well as the participation of both countries in the Latin American Network for Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention.

### **Paraguay - Presentation of the Legal Proposal for the Creation of the National Commission for the Prevention of Genocide and Mass Atrocities**

On August 11, 2015, AIPR participated in an activity at the National Congress of Paraguay, during which the bill aimed at the creation of the National Commission for the Prevention of Genocide, Mass Atrocities was presented to lawmakers. The activity was organized by the General Directorate of Truth, Justice and Reparations Unit of the Office of the Ombudsman. The draft was prepared by the General Directorate of Truth, Justice and Reparations with the General Human Rights Unit of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The draft aims to formalize inter-ministerial coordination between different government agencies in the prevention of atrocities. The bill, which was introduced to Congress on August 26, 2015, is currently being considered by the Senate of Paraguay.

### **Uruguay - Seminar-Workshop on Tools for the Prevention of Genocide and other Mass Atrocities as Grave Violations of Human Rights**



The National Seminar, which took place on November 5 and 6, 2015, was co-organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uruguay and AIPR. It also included the participation of the Office of the Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide and the Uruguayan National Institution of Human Rights.

The objectives of the activities were aimed at promoting the importance of prevention in the role that national public officials carry out in the development of a joint agenda with this approach. During the first day of the activity, concepts of genocide and mass atrocities, as well as legal frameworks and available regional tools for prevention were discussed. The Latin American Network was presented as one such concrete intergovernmental tool.

During the second day, a representative from the UN Office of the Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide presented the challenges of the Office, as well as concrete tools for early warning within the context of the United Nations. The National Institution for Human Rights and the Ombudsman, in conjunction with the Honorary Commission against Racism, Xenophobia and All Forms of Discrimination, presented the challenges of a national policy against discrimination within a prevention agenda. The audience was made up of members of the Armed Forces and the National Police of Uruguay.

### **Colombia - Participation in the IV Augusto Ramirez Ocampo Annual Course on International Humanitarian Law**

In Bogota, Colombia, from November 4-6 of 2015, the Auschwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation again participated in the Augusto Ramirez Ocampo Annual course on International Humanitarian Law organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Colombia and the International Committee of the Red Cross. AIPR was represented by Clara Ramirez-Barat, Director of the Educational Policies Program at AIPR who, through her presentation on Education, Peacebuilding and Prevention, reflected on the impact of conflict on the educational and social system, as well as the importance of the incorporation of both a transitional justice and prevention-focused approach.

Additionally, AIPR reiterated its commitment to the prevention of atrocities and presented recent developments in Latin America regarding the consolidation of the Latin American Network Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention.

### **Brazil - International Seminar on the Prevention of Genocide and other Grave Violations of Human Rights**

From November 30 to December 2, 2015, the First International Seminar for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of Human Rights was held in Brasilia. The activity, organized by the Secretariat of Human Rights and the Federal Ombudsman Office for the Rights of Citizens, was supported by AIPR and the Office of the Special Adviser for the Prevention of Genocide.

The seminar was attended by national and international speakers who lectured to an audience of 50 people about prevention policies with a specific focus on memory, truth and justice, the role of security and peacekeeping forces, and the promotion of the fight against discrimination and triggers of violence against black youth and indigenous people.

### **V Focal Points Meeting of the Latin American Network for Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention**

On December 3-4 of 2015, the V Meeting of Focal Points of the Latin American Network for Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention was held in Brasilia. The Technical Secretariat, along with the Federal Ombudsman Office for Citizens Rights (Federal Public Ministry) and the Secretary of Human Rights (co-organizers of the meeting), worked on the coordination of the agenda, proposals circulation and the corresponding logistical arrangements.

At the Meeting, information on developed national initiatives, as well as those programed for 2016, was discussed. The progress status of the research project “The Nexus Between the Rights and Protection of Indigenous Peoples and the Prevention of Atrocity Crimes in the Americas Region” presented by OSAPG in December of 2014 was evaluated and the AIPR proposal for the project “Education for the Prevention of Mass Atrocity in Latin America” was also analyzed.

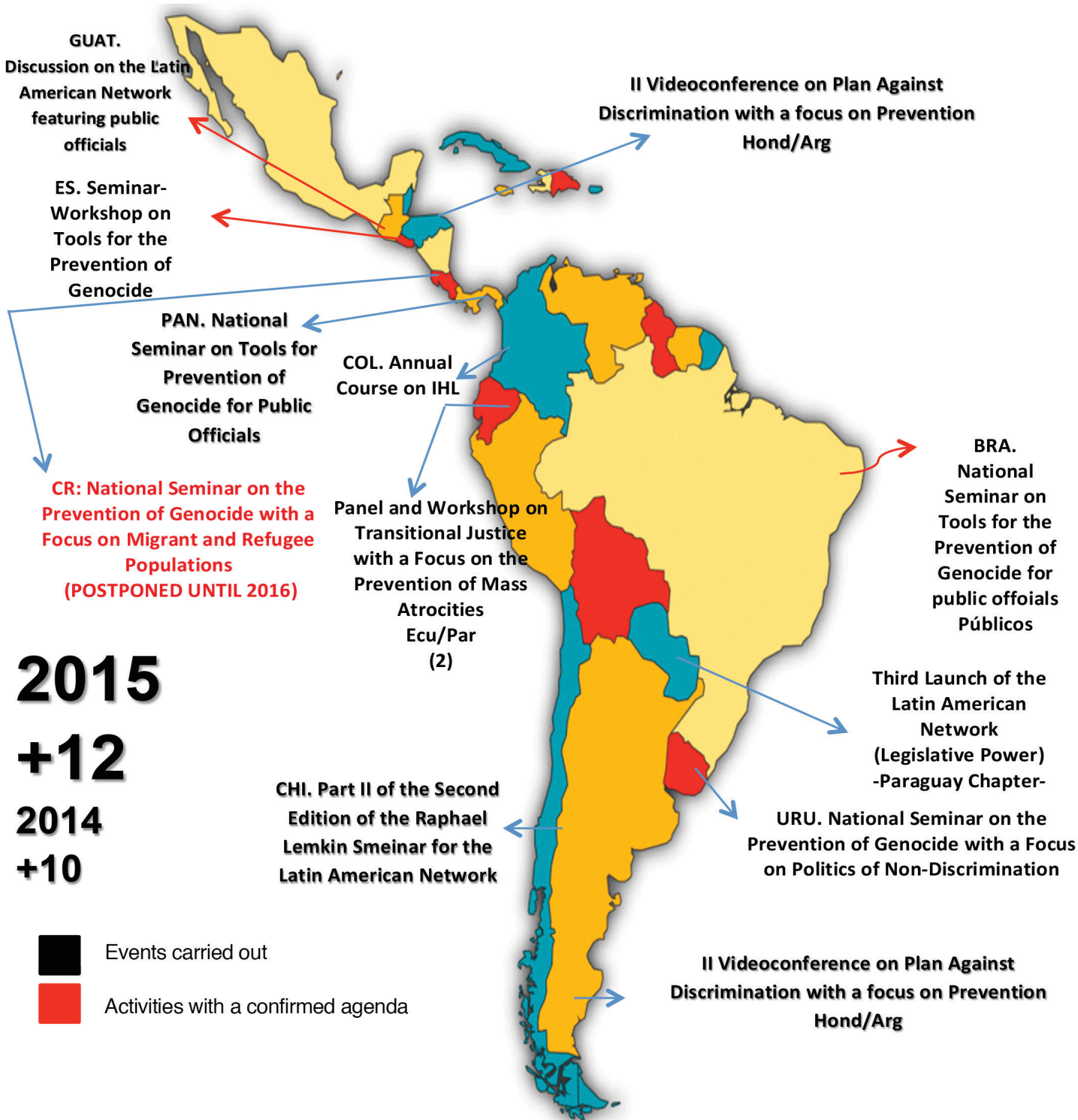
**\* Finally, the Technical Secretariat coordinated the academic and logistical development for the third edition of the Raphael Lemkin Seminar for the Latin American Network, which was held in Poland from February 14 to February 21 of 2016.**



## **Institutional Management and Dissemination of the Latin American Network for Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention**

- 1) Institutional linking with the International Centre for the Promotion of Human Rights (UNESCO status). Proposal relating to mutual cooperation in the fight against discrimination and a cooperation agenda with African activities.
- 2) Institutional linking with the Ministry of Foreign and International Affairs of Spain
- 3) Development of the Annual Report of the Technical Secretariat of the Network for circulation among its members and dissemination efforts
- 4) Meetings with human rights, defense, and justice public officials during missions to countries in the region
- 5) Negotiations with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Cuba for the inclusion of the country in the Latin American Network

### Training Activities Carried Out in 2015



**Participants and Instructors of the Raphael Lemkin Seminar for the Latin American Network and National Seminars/Activities (2015)**

