



The following Projects are being run in Latin America during 2010 / 2011/ 2012

- **Defending Journalists Human Rights in Latin America**
- **Trade Union Leadership Programme (FORMES)**
- **Journalism, Unionism and Gender Equity**
- **Safety and Trade Union Building in Colombia**

• <b>Title: Defending Journalists and Human Rights in Latin America</b>
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**Location:** Latin America

**Dates:** January 2010 – December 2012

#### **Background**

During the last ten years over 300 journalists were murdered in the Latin American Region. The professionals of this Continent, especially in Central America, Colombia and the Caribbean receive very poor salaries.

From the start of their activities in Latin America over fifteen year ago, the IFJ established the defense of journalists' human rights as one of their priorities. Civil wars in some Central American countries demanded a direct response to a series of individual cases of journalists attacked and/or threatened. Legal assistance and support were provided, through the unions, to journalists whose rights had been violated. The current situation records that, with very few exceptions, in most countries, journalism in Latin America is a very vulnerable professional, subject to diverse pressures and the union organizations are not always prepared for assuming an efficient defense, and campaigning against impunity.

#### **Overall Objective:**

Its general objective is to improve the promotion and defense of journalists' human rights in Latin America by capacitating journalists, and the union organizations to effectively campaign and defend their rights.

#### **Activities**

- Organisation of three annual regional conference on journalists' Human Rights,
- Production of regional Publication

#### **Partners**

All IFJ affiliates in Latin America and Federación de Periodistas de América Latina y el Caribe (FEPALC) the regional group.

#### **Expected Results**

- Strengthen journalists and their organization for the defense of their human rights.
- Raise awareness and attention to cases of violation of journalists' human rights in the Region.
- Contribute in creating the legal, ethic and institutional conditions for the promotion and defense of journalists' human rights.

**Donors:** LO-TCO



## **Title: Trade Union Leadership Programme**

### **Background**

The IFJ's union leadership programmes in the region has seen the training and progressive professionalisation of over 550 union leaders- many of whom are, today, part of their union's Board of Directors. The training has worked on a range of important issues for unionists including, analyzing the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats facing each union, problem solving, improving management skills, including, leadership and confidence, tolerance and unity. There has also been a strengthening of the regional solidarity between the unions.

### **Overall Objective:**

To maximise the potential performance of union leaders and organisations by developing combined high level leadership programmes in 17 Central and South American countries, attending simultaneously the individuals and groups training needs as well and organisational capabilities.

To strengthen the performance of union organisations and leaders through the articulation of leadership and management skills, to help unions achieve their strategic objectives in the region.

### **Activities**

- Preparation of training program and supporting material
- Implement four leadership trainings per year, two in South America and two in Central America.

### **Partners**

All IFJ affiliates in Latin America and Federación de Periodistas de América Latina y el Caribe (FEPALC) the regional group.

### **Expected Results**

- Improve capacity of producing tangible changes in the performance of the unions in the region,.
- Combine training the leaders with modernisation of their national unions.
- Guarantee the approach of the programme toward the strategic objectives for the consolidation of the press workers' unions in the region.

**Donors:** LO-TCO

## **Title: Journalism, Unionism and Gender Equity**

### **Background**

The promotion of gender equality among journalists has been a key objective of IFJ work since the 2001 Seoul Congress launched the IFJ's Gender Council and programme for mainstreaming gender. Since then a number of regional conferences have taken place including in Latin America where unions have committed themselves to promoting gender nationally. Equality needs to be promoted both in the news room and in journalists unions, whose leaderships are often male dominated.

### **Overall Objective:**

The Project intends to rights of women journalists within the news room and within unions through the adoption and implementation of union action plans that combat discrimination and inequality. In particular



it will examine the Latin American situation and examples of inequality in media and unions, research and compare best practice and strengthen national and regional campaigns and networks

#### **Activities**

- Three annual regional Gender Equality Conferences

#### **Partners**

All IFJ affiliates in Latin America and Federación de Periodistas de América Latina y el Caribe (FEPALC) the regional group.

#### **Expected Results**

- Sensitization of union leaders, media owners, public decision makers and others to gender equity in the exercise of journalism and unionism in Latin America.
- Improve analysis of gender equity situation in the region.
- Contribute in startup and diffusion of good practices on gender equity related topics including equal remuneration, protection for women journalists in hostile environments situations, special structures for women, public legislation and policies, health and social security, professional exercise and domestic life, and formal and informal leadership training
- Strengthen the organizing events associated to gender equality, within FEPALC unions with special emphasis on a Latin American net of women journalists.

**Donors:** LO-TCO

<b>Title: Safety and Trade Union Building in Colombia</b>
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**Location:** Colombia

**Dates:** January 2009 – December 2011

#### **Background**

One hundred and forty journalists have been killed in the last 17 years in Colombia, hundreds have been forced to leave the country and those who keep working as journalists face constant pressure from corrupted state officials and authorities, paramilitary organizations, guerrilla, drug traffickers, members of intelligence services and media commercial interests. Meanwhile media concentration and an economic crisis resulted in a collapse in the working conditions and professional rights of journalists in the media, as jobs and salaries were cut, contracts discarded and working hours raised.

This combined crisis led to the IFJ establishing the CESO-FIP office in Colombia in 2002 to campaign for improved safety conditions for journalists. The office has organised the transfer of IFJ safety fund money, campaigns on press freedom and launched FECOLPER, the Colombian national journalists' trade union. FECOLPER now represents over 1200 journalists with over 23 regional groups and campaigns vigorously on safety, violations of journalists rights, defamation and basic working rights.

#### **Activities**

- Capacity building for the national Federation and the union leaders. A programme of trainings on leadership, union building and campaigning for FECOLPER leaders
- Recruitment of new members and regional groups
- Campaign on Ethics and self-regulation
- Human Rights and Press Freedom: monitoring and reporting on all violations of journalists rights including murders, beatings, prosecutions etc. And provisional of annual report to be submitted to the



Office in Colombia of the High Commissioner on Human Rights, Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression.

- Provision of rapid response to urgent cases and safety measures for journalists at risk and participation in the Commission on Human Rights and Hearings of the Senate of Colombia for follow up on denounces made by FECOLPER.
- Legal programme of lobbying for reform of laws including the decriminalisation of defamation. Provision of regular legal service to members.
- Production of annual status of journalists report and 2 reports on aggressions against press freedom and actions carried out before the Prosecutor's Office, State organism in charge of sanctioning public officials.
- Communications through FECOLPER Website on all FECOLPER protests, information for members and development of online members section and FECOLPER board blog.
- FECOLPER will coordinate and support on line radio station to publicize work, campaigns, recruit new members for FECOLPER and reinforce awareness campaigns and attacks against journalists.
- Gender Equality and the recruitment of women members and promoting strategies in Women network
- Campaigning against impunity on World Press Freedom Day
- National campaign for the defence of work and social conditions of women journalists

**Partners:** FECOLPER, Federación Colombiana de Periodistas  
Swedish Journalists' Union and the Cadiz Press Association, (member of FAPE)

**Expected Results:**

- Enhanced national and local structures of FECOLPER
- Improved regional and national leaderships
- Raised international profile and support for FECOLPER and press freedom in Colombia
- Stronger regional co-operation
- Recruitment of a further 200 members to the national federation
- FECOLPER regional branches promoting union building activity in Colombia.
- Stronger alliances with international human rights organisms to impact on national level
- Greater population of journalists aware of their rights and possible strategies to defend them
- Greater awareness among women journalists of their rights
- Greater women participation in decision making roles within FECOLPER
- National campaign against impunity on World Press Freedom Day

**Donors:** LO TCO / Municipality of Cantabria