

## Permanent Assembly for Human Rights

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### Report Review

Status: Special, 1995

### Quadrennial report for year 2015 - 2018

#### Introduction:

The Permanent Assembly for Human Rights (APDH), non-profit civil association founded in Argentina in 1975, is one of the country's historical human rights organizations. It promotes the defense and validation of human rights. Therefore, it currently exposes and denounces different violations. The APDH is a nation-wide institution, with 14 departments at the national level and 27 Representations throughout the country, all dedicated to the observation, analysis and monitoring of public policies from a human rights perspective, at the national, regional and international levels as well.

#### Aims and purposes of the organization:

APDH's purpose is to promote the observance of human rights as set forth in the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in the Argentine Constitution. Its main activities are: 1) To observe, study and evaluate national reality from a human rights point of view. 2) To report human rights violations and provide assistance for victims. 3) To intervene with respect to national and international authorities, institutions and other entities concerning the observance of rights. 4) To develop actions aimed at individuals' awareness, education, and training in sustaining their rights, through workshops, conferences and seminars. 5) To cooperate with like organizations for the general validation of human rights. 6) To further memory, truth, and justice concerning the dictatorship's crimes. 7) To litigate in judicial cases of crimes against humanity. 8) To promote full implementation of rights in relation to gender equality and sexual and cultural diversity.

#### Significant changes in the organization:

The APDH is the human rights organization with greatest geographical presence in Argentina. It is a recognized protagonist in the Argentine feminist movement. It participates actively in the Not-One-Less campaign and for the right to legal, safe, and free abortion. During the current administration, the APDH has submitted repeated allegations concerning how Macri's government deteriorates the rule of law: negationism (akin to Holocaust denial), dismantling of policies regarding memory, obstructions in judicial procedures, political persecution and harassment of Mapuches (indigenous communities), persecution of immigrants, cutbacks in social benefits, dismantling of educational and health services, institutional violence, violence towards poor young people, discrimination, lawfare, attacks on freedom of expression, and others. The APDH has not received the Government's contribution to litigate in cases of crimes against humanity. We have continued without it.

#### Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations:

The APDH has carried out in these last four years numerous activities related to: - Situations of indigenous peoples, - Institutional violence, - Caring for the environment, - Trials of crimes against humanity, - Restructuring the sovereign debt (2015), - Concern for debt created with the IMF (2018), - Repudiation of the incorporation to positions of authority of representatives of the military dictatorship, - Defense of workers in conflict, - Violation and deterioration of respect for rule of law, - The right to protest, - Attacks on freedom of expression, - Religious discrimination, - Solidarity with the Palestinian people, - LGBT femicides (like Diana Sacayán) - Defense of political prisoners (Milagro Sala and other Tupac Amaru members), - Santiago Maldonado's disappearance, - Increased poverty (in the general population, especially among children, adolescents, seniors)

**Participation in meetings of the United Nations:**

- Presentation to the UN's Human Rights Council (32nd period) concerning Milagro Sala's arrest. - Exposition before the UN's Human Rights Council (together with the American Association of Jurists) on Western Sahara and Sahrawi people's situation (resolution 2015/16). - Presentations before the UN Rapporteur on behalf of judges' and lawyers' independence, for threats to the lawyer Paz, also for Dr. Cholvis. - Presentation to the Human Rights Council, with other organizations, of the shadow report on Indigenous Peoples. - Report to UN High Council on Human Rights on the situations of human rights defenders. - Requests for intervention on Milagros Sala's behalf to several UN authorities and agencies. - Presentations of complaints to the Rapporteur against torture. - The Rapporteur's visit concerning the right to food: presentation Report "Poverty and food" and accompaniment to soup kitchens. - Participation in Rapporteur's visit concerning racial discrimination(2016) - Presentation to the UN's Afro-descendants' Group.

**Initiatives taken by the organization in support of the Millennium Development Goals:**

Participation in the Argentine monitoring platform – PAMPA 2030, trade union Network and social civic organizations.