

# Canadian Association for Rights and Truth

Annual Report of Activities  
2015-2016



English Version

Translation: Jorge B  
Review: María Gabriela Zurbarán Duque

**Restoring hope. Restoring freedom.**

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# Canadian Association for Rights and Truth

## Association's Report of Activities

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### Message from the Chairman



Since its foundation in December 2013, the Canadian Association for Rights and Truth has definitely stood out among the international organizations' network engaged in the defence of the human rights.

First of all, our mission and our mandate are unique: we work on real cases of manufactured culprits, and by studying the inner workings of this phenomenon, we address the theme of human rights... Subsequently, our methodology is based on a partnership with organizations that use their expertise and skill to defend the victims from their internal justice system. In addition, the collaboration is also directed from the victims and their representatives to the Association. Finally, our last major distinctive feature lies in our individualized, human approach, and our long-term commitment to the victims and their families: when we decide to take charge of a file, we accompany them, and we put all our energy and our patience to restore their confidence and their ability to defend their duty, themselves and others. We help them to restore their dignity and the right to regain their freedom. These are the values that motivate those who work within our organization; values that I see growing with undeniable pride: the determination, the discipline, the full dedication, the self-sacrifice and the courage to give voice to the victims who would, otherwise, be kept in silence.

In the report of activities for the year 2013-2014, I referred to a promising commencement. These promises were successfully accomplished during our 2nd and 3rd years of work. The founders of the Canadian Association for Rights and Truth had as a priority the humble idea of an organism firstly committed to prove itself on the seriousness and the effectiveness of working with victims of human rights violations. Today, we are proud to have successfully reached our goals, and it is with confidence that we proceeded in September 2015 to our first fundraising campaign, which proved to be a success.

My colleagues and I here introduce the achievements of the year 2014-2015. To our foundation, this period corresponds to a process of consolidation and transition to the third and crucial phase of our triennial development plan. Plan that we will develop in the last section of this report.

Before going further, I would like to warmly thank our team of collaborators, which is constantly growing, as well as present all around the world: in North America, Latin America, Europe, and even in the Middle East. I would also like to thank our external collaborators and partner organizations: the Mexican activist Eduardo Gallo, USA-based Mexican journalist Guadalupe Lizárraga, Chairperson of the Liga Mexicana por la Defensa de los Derechos Humanos (LIMEDDH), as well as Dr. Lorena Leal Castaño, Director of the foundation Fonde Justicia y Verdad in Colombia.

Thanks to the victims and their representatives for trusting us. Our main goal is to restore freedom and dignity to those who have lost them both without having committed any crime.

And if one word should be added to the two central terms that form our organization's name, the right and the truth; it is, of course, hope. Let's restore hope to those whom had it stolen: for hope is a prelude to their freedom.

Thank you.

Montreal, August 23, 2016

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'David Bertet', with a stylized, cursive script.

**David Bertet**

Chairman of the Board of Directors.

## SECTION I - Guidelines for the year 2015-2016

At the Board of Directors' meeting on May 7, 2015, the board members confirmed the guidelines for the year 2015-2016 to follow the three procedures listed in the work plan for the year 2014, which were:

**1.- The defence of the victims:** on the files on which we were working before the official creation of the Organization on December 2, 2013; this defence included two main steps: the detailed analysis of legal files aiming to prepare a report based on each file to be sent to the judge in charge of the case (objective 1. of the Statutes and Regulations); objectively spread the information to raise public opinion's awareness (goal 6. of the Statutes and Regulations).

Precision: to this purpose, we have continued our work for the defence of the alleged victims of the manufacturing of culprits since last year. As we accept new cases, our database on manufactured culprits have increased.

**2.- The investigation on mechanisms used to manufacture culprits** (objective 2. of the Statutes and Regulations), on the modus operandi and the general profile of those who are engaged in the illegal and immoral activity of manipulating a country's justice system to imprison innocent people. The knowledge of these mechanisms allows us to effectively detect, for future cases, whether the person who alleges being a victim can be included in the category of manufactured culprits. This knowledge also allows us to eventually prevent false accusations to be made against a new person, by establishing some kind of security protocol.

**3.- The moral and the psychological support** to the victims' families and the victims themselves (objective 3. of the Statutes and Regulations).

During 2015-2016, a fourth guideline was added:

**4.- To participate in the creation of an international associations network** dedicated to the defence of human rights (objective 7. of the Statutes and Regulations)

We will describe in section 7.c new partnerships that have been forged in 2015-2016.

## SECTION II - Administration and community life

### 1.- The Board of Directors Members

The Association's Board of Directors has a limited number of members, whose main mandate is to supervise the executive committee, formed by volunteer workers chosen by the board members.

During this period, the three directors have been:

- David Bertet (founding member): Chairman.
- Dominique Théberge (active member): Treasurer, re-elected at the annual general meeting of July 30, 2016.
- Ms. Laurence Bertet (founding member): Secretary, who gave up her seat to Mr. Vincent D'Astous, elected Secretary for a period of two years at the annual general meeting of July 30, 2016.

We refer to the document entitled "Rules and regulations," article VII, pages 5 and 6, for a description of the responsibilities of the Board of Directors and its members.



Dominique Théberge



David Bertet, Chairman



Laurence Bertet, Secretary  
(2013 – 2016)

Confidentiality clause: Since June 2014, the *Registraire des Entreprises du Québec* (Quebec's Business Registry) maintains a confidentiality clause concerning the contact information of the members of the organization's Board of Directors, in order to ensure their safety in connection with the work made on the Wallace case in Mexico.

### 2.- Treasury and Finance

The Treasurer is in charge of managing the Association's bank and PayPal accounts, as well as checking all monies coming in and going out.

For the year 2015-2016, income came from two main sources:

1.- The annual contributions of active and associate members.

2.- The fundraising campaign with Global Giving, which took place in September 2015 and raised US\$6,550 (approx. CAN\$8,463) in 15 days.

Expenses have mainly consisted of:

- Office expenses: CAN\$354.07
- Travel and representation expenses: CAN\$2,704.58

Therefore, the 2015 fiscal year ended with a surplus of CAN \$4,433.72

The low level of expenses is due to the minimal operations cost up to the present time. Most of our actions require that our volunteers work from home. It is appropriate to consider that an increase in the expenses should be expected for the coming year, proportionally to an increase in our incomes.

### **3.- Association Members**

The information related to the Association members (associate, active or partners) is not public, mostly regarding their identity, number, or enrolment dates. There is a benefactor member, Mr. Richard Gimenez, who has financially contributed to the achievements of the Organization's objectives. There is also an honorary member, Ms. Florence Cassez Avila, former manufactured culprit released in January 2013 after 9 years in a Mexican jail. The Association actively worked to get Ms Cassez freedom.



**Ms. Florence Cassez Avila. Honorary Member**



**Mr. Richard Gimenez. Benefactor Member**

#### **4.- Executive Committee Members**

The Executive Committee is the active body of the organization. Its members are volunteers and they are selected by the Chairman after consulting with the other two members of the Board of Directors. Their responsibilities and the tasks they have to accomplish are assigned by the Chairman, in accordance with the skills, interests and availability of the candidates, as well as, with the duration and reliability of their involvement.

##### **a) Recruitment**

As in 2014, volunteers were mainly recruited through the Volunteer Bureau of Montreal, in which we published recruitment ads for the following positions: translator, responsible for legal file study, legal file study assistant, proof-reader, and writing contributor.

##### **b) Organization and structure of the Executive Committee for the year 2015 -2016**

The Executive Committee is divided into 3 distinct departments:

- Communications Department: 13 members<sup>1</sup>
- Department of International Relations: 4 members
- Department of Legal Advice and Investigation: 10 members

In addition to these members, two other members are assigned to producing a documentary special project.

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<sup>1</sup> We make a distinction between "members" of the Association and "members" of the Executive Committee, the latter being the volunteers. It was decided at the 1st General Assembly of the Association in January 2014 that volunteers could decide whether to join the Organization as an associate or an active member.

<b>Department</b>	<b>Members of the Executive Committee before January 2015</b>	<b>(New) Members of the Executive Committee since January 2015</b>
<p><b>Communications</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Translation</li> <li>• Linguistic Revision</li> <li>• Composition</li> </ul>	<p>Mr. Jorge Bravo (Canada): French-Spanish and English-Spanish translation, and linguistic revision.</p> <p>Ms. Ilse Luraschi (Canada): English-Spanish translation.</p> <p>Ms. Michèle Mouafo (Canada): Opinion articles on case studies in French.</p>	<p>Ms. Pauline Martinez (France): Director of web content.</p> <p>Ms. Marisol Gutiérrez (Canada): English-Spanish translation, and linguistic revision.</p> <p>Ms. Delphine Jung (Canada): English-French translation, articles on human rights in French.</p> <p>Mr. Guillermo Uria (Canada): English-Spanish, Spanish-English translation, linguistic revision, and articles on case studies in Spanish, English and French.</p> <p>Ms. S. A. Aram (Iran): Articles in English and Persian on human rights, Iran and the Mohamad Ali Taheri's file.</p> <p>Mr. Rodrigo Mendoza (Canada): Spanish-French translation.</p> <p>Ms. Lindsey Soso (Canada): French-English translation, and linguistic revision.</p> <p>Ms. Jasmine Soso (Canada): French-English translation, linguistic revision and articles on case studies (English).</p>

		<p>Mr. Grégoire Ancellin (Canada/Colombia): French-Spanish, French-English translation, articles on case studies (French).</p> <p>Ms. Clara Hessler (Canada): French-English translation.</p>
<p><b>International Relations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relations with Organizations</li> <li>• Policy</li> <li>• Representation</li> </ul>	<p>Mr. Moisés Castello (Canada), appointed Head of the Department of International Relations in August 2015.</p> <p>Ms. Carolina Arévalo (Canada): International Relations Assistant</p>	<p>Mr. Grégoire Ancellin (Colombia): CART Representative abroad.</p> <p>Ms. Clara Hessler (Canada): Legal Assistance on behalf of the Association.</p>
<p><b>Legal Advice and Investigation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analysis of Legal Files</li> <li>• Development of Defence Strategy</li> <li>• Psychological Support</li> <li>• Supervision of National and International Proceedings</li> </ul>	<p>Mr. Antonio Guillén (confidential): Co-Director of Legal Files and Investigation.</p> <p>Mr. Moisés Castello (Canada), Legal Files Supervisor.</p> <p>Ms. Mabel González (Canada): Legal Files Manager.</p> <p>Ms. Giuliana Rojas Cazco (Chile): Legal Files Manager.</p>	<p>Mr. Guillermo Uria (Canada): Legal Files Manager.</p> <p>Mr. Rodrigo Mendoza (Canada): Legal Files Manager.</p> <p>Ms. Marisol Gutiérrez (Canada): Co-manager of Legal files (Spanish)</p> <p>Ms. Lindsey Soso (Canada): Co-manager of Legal files (English)</p> <p>Mr. Grégoire Ancellin (Colombia): Co-manager of Legal files.</p> <p>Ms. Clara Hessler (Canada): Co-manager of Legal Files.</p>
<p><b>Special projects</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Documentaries</li> </ul>	<p>Ms. Seonghee Cho (Canada): Assistance to the Documentary Project in partnership with the organization MSCM.</p>	<p>Ms. Delphine Jung (Canada): Interviews Director to the Documentary Project in partnership with the organization MSCM.</p>

Since last year, the Executive Committee has experienced both an increase and a renewal of its members along the lines of the professionalization of its comprising members: while 9 people have left the Executive Committee, and ceased their involvement with the Organization, 10 new volunteers have joined this body after a successful 3 months' probation period.



David Bertet, Andrea González (middle), Mabel González (right)

## 5.- Employees and contractors

The Association has currently no employees. Professional activity fees were paid to an office of investigators whose location and the file for which fees were incurred cannot be mentioned here. However, these professional services and travel expenses were not included in the budget report for the fiscal year that ended in December 2015. Please note that, according to the Organization's development plan, the situation regarding the lack of employees should change during the year 2016-2017.

## 6.- Website and social networks

We are present on the web in four different ways:

- Our website [www.ac-dv.org](http://www.ac-dv.org), dedicated to the dissemination of case of studies, news of the cases handled by the Association, articles on human rights, and releases (press, urgent action...). The texts are mostly published in the Association's three official languages. Some releases and articles have also been published in Persian (Taheri case in Iran) and in Esperanto. The site is a showcase for partner organizations, and also the best way for the representatives of alleged victims to be in contact with our teams.
- Our twitter account [@ACDVcanada](https://twitter.com/ACDVcanada), dedicated to the news diffusion in the Association's three official languages.
- Our [Facebook page](#), dedicated to the news diffusion in the Association's three official languages.
- Our page on the [Global Giving](#) portal devoted to the collection of funds in connection with our "[Un-prisonment](#)" project.

## 7.- Affiliations

Since August 2014, the Canadian Association for Rights and Truth has been a member of the Volunteer Bureau of Montreal (VBM), our preferred partner for the recruitment of new volunteers. David Bertet and Dominique Théberge participated in the Annual General Assembly of the Volunteer Bureau of Montreal that was held in the offices of the VBM on June 9, 2016.

Since the fundraising campaign in September 2015, the Canadian Association for Rights and Truth has been part of the Global Giving network, with HQ in the US, as a leader organization.

In January 2016, the Association joined the Red de Alerta Temprana, an alliance of organizations for the defence of human rights in Mexico under the auspices of the Liga Mexicana por la Defensa de los Derechos Humanos. The mandate of the Red de Alerta Temprana is the dissemination of urgent media releases to the national press (Mexico), national authorities (President, Senate, Chamber of Representatives, Interior Ministry, etc.) and international authorities (IACHR, UN, etc.) in the event of serious human rights violations on Mexican territory. As a member of Red de Alerta Temprana, CART has participated in the dissemination of media releases of immediate action, for example but not exclusively, in the cases of Pablo Solórzano Castro and César Freyre Morales.



## 8.- Partnerships

The non-profit organizations incorporated as legal entities, in accordance with the legislation in force in the countries in which they were established, under the condition that an agreement has been signed between the Canadian Association for Rights and Truth and the partner organization, fall into the category of "Affiliate members" (see Statutes and Regulations, article IV p. 4)

### a) Current partnerships

- Activist group MXporFC ([mexicoporflorencecassez](#), [BrendaLibre](#), [ElCasoWallace](#)) (activists, Mexico).

- As an external consultant, Ms. Ambar Treviño (lawyer, Mexico)
- As an external consultant for the files under the administration of the Association, Ms. Joëlle Roig (lawyer, France)
- [Los Ángeles Press](#) and its Director/founder, journalist and activist Guadalupe Lizárraga (journalist, USA)
- The Spanish portal [Ajintem](#), which helps us in the distribution of file summaries and other relevant information on the issues that we deal with (NGO, Spain)



#### **b) End of collaborations**

In the year 2015-2016, the following partnerships were not renewed.

- With [Gente de México por la Democracia](#) (Mexico), a non-profit organization based in Mexico which ceased its operations in 2015.
- With the [Frente de los Medios de Comunicación Alternativos Independientes](#) (FEMCAI). The Board of Directors decided not to continue our collaboration with this information portal, because of the founding members of FEMCAI's political affiliations.
- With the [Association contre la Fabrication de Coupables et pour la Défense des Droits Humains](#) and its president Luis Rogelio Vargas (Canada), due to the end of its operations in 2015.
- Steps taken to achieve a partnership with the following organizations: Innocence Matters (USA) and Proyecto Inocencia (USA) were unsuccessful, despite our requests.

#### **c) New collaborations**

The Association signed a partnership agreement during 2015-2016 with the following three organizations:

- The Association [Espoir pour un enfant](#) (France) led by Ms. Joëlle Roig: the terms of the partnership relate to an exchange of visibility and expertise.

- The foundation [Fonde de Justicia y Verdad](#) (Colombia), headed by Dr. Lorena Leal Castaño: the terms of the partnership relate to an exchange of visibility, shared management of files of manufactured culprits in Colombia, the organization of common events and common fundraising campaigns, as well as the exchange of expertise and workers.

- The Mexican organization [Liga Mexicana por la Defensa de los Derechos Humanos](#), headed by Dr. Adrian Ramirez: the terms of the partnership relate to an exchange of visibility, a collaboration regarding the management of manufactured culprits in Mexico, information sharing, consultation on legislation proposals, organizing events and shared awareness campaigns regarding the practice of torture in that country. CART participates in the awareness campaign against torture organized by LIMEDDH entitled "Tortura, nunca + " ("Torture, never again")



- The organization [International Campaign for Human Rights in Iran](#): the terms of the partnership include shared broadcasting of information on the situation of human rights in Iran.



In addition to these partnerships, the following informal (without signed agreement) partnerships in the form of agreements, in principle concerning projects or specific aspects:

- With the organization [Montreal Southwest Community Ministries](#) (MSCM, Canada): the partnership is a collaboration as part of a documentary project on the status of prisoners and the possibilities for social rehabilitation in Quebec.
- With the [Centro Nacional de Comunicación Social](#) (CENCOS, Mexico): the partnership concerns an exchange of visibility between organizations, and information on cases of human rights violations, including the Hector Casique Fernández case.
- With the [Fundación Defensa de Inocentes](#) (Colombia), headed by Sigifredo Lopez: the partnership is an exchange of visibility and information on cases of victims of false witnesses (Colombia).
- With the digital publication of investigative journalism [La Otra Cara](#) (Colombia): CART contributes to the dissemination of investigative articles on cases of victims of false witnesses.

- With the legal group, responsible for the defence of [Burns and Rafay](#) (USA): CART helps to disseminate information about this file, and to translate existing publications.
- With the Association [Mujeres Co-incidiendo](#) (Mexico): this group has as mandate to promote support among women for the advancement of the Mexican society. In principle, CART supports the mission of this association. The precise terms of collaboration remain to be established.

Finally, a closer relationship with the Mexican section of [Amnesty International](#) was developed during this year, and we have renewed ties with the [Comisión Mexicana por la Defensa y la Promoción de los Derechos Humanos](#) (CMDPDH).



#### d) Prospects for partnership and affiliations

In June 2016, the Board of Directors in connection with the Department of International Relations, headed by Mr. Moisés Castillo, filed an official request for membership in the [United Nations](#) for the [Canadian Association for Rights and Truth](#) to acquire the status of advisory body with the United Nations.

## SECTION III – Status report

### 1.- Victims Advocacy Work

Note: Some details in this section may not be provided. This will be the case when (1) the disclosure of these details might be prejudicial to the security of the person defended or his/her family; (2) the disclosure of these details could carry prejudicial views about the steps taken; (3) the steps taken have not yet led to a significant result, and the disclosure of these details would represent an obstacle to achieving the objectives.

#### a) Overview of the major files under responsibility of the Organization

- The Wallace case (Mexico), including: Brenda Quevedo Cruz, Jacobo Tagle Dobin, César Freyre Morales, Juana Hilda Lomeli, Tony and Alberto Castillo Cruz, Jael Malagón Uscanga
- The Marti case (Mexico), including: Pablo Solórzano Castro, Noé Robles Hernández, María Elena Ontiveros
- The Vallarta case (Mexico) including: Israel, Mario, René, Juan Carlos and Alejandro Vallarta
- The Martín del Campo Dodd case (Mexico)
- The Nestora Salgado García case (Mexico)
- The Hector Casique Fernández case (Mexico)
- The Hector Faudoa Villegas case (Mexico)
- The Yarold Leyte Quintanar case (Mexico)
- The Cinthya Cantú Muñoz case (Mexico)
- The José Martín González Moreno case (Mexico)
- The Luis Almario Rojas case (Colombia)
- The Lorena Leal Castaño case (Colombia)
- The Judith Brassard case (Colombia)
- The Florence Cassez case (France / Mexico)
- The Burns and Rafay case (USA)

I AM GRATEFUL TO **CART** BECAUSE WHEN I FELT TOTALLY ABANDONED AND DEMORALIZED THEY CAME INTO OUR LIVES. THEY LISTENED TO US, BROUGHT US THEIR UNCONDITIONAL HELP, AND GAVE US THE STRENGTH AND HOPE TO CONTINUE FIGHTING AGAINST THE INJUSTICE AND TORTURE INFLECTED UPON MY SON YAROLD

Rosalinda Quintanar, mother of Yarold Leyte Quintanar  
(Mexico)

- The Mohamad Ali Taheri case (Iran)
- The Enrique Pardo Hasche case (Colombia)

#### **b) Files in the preliminary assessment stage<sup>2</sup>**

As a result of the participation of David Bertet in the 1st National Meeting of Victims of False Witnesses<sup>3</sup>, organized by the **Fundación Defensa de Inocentes** in Bogota (Colombia) on June 2, 2015, we received a large number of requests for assistance from that country. These requests have been mainly studied by the managers of legal files: Mr. Moisés Castello, Ms. Guiliana Rojas, and Ms. Mabel González.



**1st meeting of the victims of false witnesses organized by the Fundación Defensa de Inocentes in June 2015 (Bogotá, Colombia). Photo: Herbin Hoyos Medina**

33 requests for assistance have been sent to us since the beginning of the year 2015-2016 (since December 3, 2014, until June 29, 2016).

Among the applications for assistance that have been selected:

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<sup>2</sup> The preliminary assessment stage is the first step to start analysing an assistance request. In this phase a member of the executive committee reviews the file content and the proof provided by the alleged victim's representative. The process is made under the approval of the Chairman of the Administration Board on the case eligibility

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.ac-dv.org/derechos-humanos-en-colombia-el-5-de-junio-de-2015/>

THANKS TO THE CART MEMBERS FOR THE TITANIC EFFORT YOU MAKE EVERY DAY TO CONFRONT THOSE WHO HAVE POWER, AND TO DEFEND AND UPHOLD THE DIGNITY OF INNOCENT PEOPLE, AS IN THE WALLACE CASE, IN WHICH MY DAUGHTER BRENDA IS ONE OF THE VICTIMS. THANKS FOR THE SHELTER THAT YOU HAVE GIVEN US FOR THE PAST SIX YEARS, WITHOUT EXPECTING ANYTHING IN RETURN. YOU HAVE LIGHTENED OUR BURDEN.

MAY GOD BLESS YOU!

Enriqueta Cruz Gómez, mother of Brenda Quevedo Cruz

- The Francisco Leopoldo Zea López case (Mexico)

- The Julian Osorio Galvis case (Colombia)

Among the requests for assistance still subject to preliminary assessment:

- The Victor Alfonso Valencia Galindo case (Colombia)

- The Diana Bermúdez case (Colombia)

- The Gonzalo Contreras Rincón case (Spain)
- The Julian Osorio Galvis case (Colombia)
- The Alda Riveiro case (Bolivia)
- The Enrique Villegas Hernández case (Colombia)
- The Carlos Andrés Butchereit Ortega case (Colombia)

Furthermore, 17 requests for assistance out of all those received through our website have been rejected for one or some of the following reasons:

- (1) Lack of evidence;
- (2) Lack of communication between the representative of the alleged victim and the Association, which has made the assessment work difficult or impossible;
- (3) The case does not match with a case of manufactured culprits;
- (4) The assumption of the inmate's innocence for the alleged facts lacks credibility.

### c) Presentation of the actions undertaken in major files

In connection with the **Wallace case** in Mexico, the Organization worked in partnership with **FEMCAI** (up to our dissociation from the group due to ideological and methodological differences), with the digital newspaper **Los Ángeles Press** (USA), and with the **Proceso magazine**. CART filed both a complaint and a request for protective measures with the Inter-



Press Conference on the Wallace case. Photo: Cenco

THE CANADIAN ASSOCIATION FOR RIGHTS  
AND TRUTH IS THE BRANCH OF THE DIVINE  
JUSTICE ON EARTH, AND DAVID, AND HIS  
TEAM ARE ITS ANGELS...

THANK YOU FOR BELIEVING IN MY  
INNOCENCE AND FOR HELPING ME PROVE  
IT TO THE WHOLE WORLD!

Judith Brassard (Colombia)

American Commission of Human Rights (IACHR) on behalf of the Mexican citizen Jacobo Tagle Dobin, accused in the case of the manufactured kidnapping known as the Wallace case. The Association also requested to the Mexican Chamber of Deputies to put the file of Brenda Quevedo Cruz, co-accused in the Wallace case, under an independent investigation due to the allegations of torture against Ms. Quevedo Cruz. Unfortunately, the request did not succeed. This result proves the political immobilism in relation to human rights violations in that country, and the discomfort that those allegations of torture cause them.

Another complaint was filed in this case following the suspect rape of Brenda Quevedo Cruz's grandmother, in circumstances and following a modus operandi that suggests it could be an action of retaliation and threats against Brenda Quevedo Cruz's family.

A press conference held in the offices of CENCOS in Mexico on July 11, 2016, helped to expose evidence of the falsehood of the kidnapping of Hugo Alberto Wallace Miranda and the complicity of the local (State of Mexico) and the federal authorities in the manufacturing of evidence, self-incriminating false statements, and the use of torture against the defendants in this case. The press conference also permitted the representatives of the victims to speak publicly to the press showing for the first time an image of unity.

In the same vein, the activist Eduardo Gallo participated in the event, and enjoyed a significant media coverage in Mexico, especially in the national media magazines, such as [Proceso](#), [Contralínea](#), [Aristegui Online](#), [Official Journal of the Supreme Court](#), and in the CART's partner media ([Los Ángeles Press](#), [MXporFC](#)). Finally, a new contact was established with the family of Juana Hilda Lomeli, one of the defendants in this case, and the first defendant to have corroborated, under torture, the



The activist Eduardo Gallo during the press conference on the Wallace case. Photo: Cencos

version promoted by Isabel Miranda de Wallace about the kidnapping and murder of her son Hugo Alberto Wallace. Also, for the first time, CART publicly intervened to defend the innocence of César Freyre Morales, accused of being the leader of the group of kidnappers, and for which Isabel Miranda de Wallace claimed that neither he nor his co-accused had been tortured. In an urgent action media release, we have provided evidence of torture and ill treatment, and supported the innocence of César Freyre Morales. Presently, CART is working on this issue from two fronts: (1)

WITHOUT THE GREAT SUPPORT OF THE  
CANADIAN ASSOCIATION FOR  
RIGHTS AND TRUTH, MY STORY  
MAYBE WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN THE SAME.

Juan Carlos Cortez Vallarta, released in February 2016

(Mexico)

the petition for a parliamentary investigation, independent from the Public Prosecutor, suspected of complicity in this matter. To this end, a written request was sent to the office of the Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto to request a presidential pardon for the accused, and to hold a commission of inquiry. Since the response of the presidential secretariat was to forward our request to the public prosecutor, we have respectfully refused the return of this file to the public prosecutor and reiterated our position that only an independent parliamentary commission would be able to objectively investigate the case; (2) filed a complaint for the crime of lese-humanity against Isabel Miranda de Wallace/Maria Isabel Miranda Torres with the International Criminal Court. Please note that the Mexican public opinion is now largely in favour of the people who have been charged in this case since the version promoted by the mother of the disappeared has been dismissed. In addition, the evidence of torture of the accused, and of the complicity between Isabel Miranda de Wallace through her foundation *Alto al Secuestro* and the Mexican authorities (PMP, SEGOB, CNDH...) have been quite clearly demonstrated. The **Wallace case** is without a doubt to this day the major file on which CART has worked on. In this case, the ACDV joins the IACHR, the CMDPDH, and the UN, organizations and bodies that have been the target of particularly vicious attacks by the Mexican government and by Isabel Miranda de Wallace, following their opposition to the official version given by Mexico's Attorney General's Office concerning the disappearance of the 43 students in Ayotzinapa.

In a file derived from the Wallace case, **Omar Quevedo Cruz**, Brenda's brother, and a target of accusations from Isabel Miranda de Wallace in Mexico, is currently under the protection of the *Canadian Association for Rights and Truth*. For security reasons, we can't reveal more information on the protective measures implemented and the work accomplished by the Organization.

In the **Marti case** in Mexico, closely linked to the Wallace case due to the involvement of Isabel Miranda de Wallace in the indictment of the accused, including Pablo Solórzano Castro and Noé Robles Hernández, we have closely worked with the *Liga Mexicana por la Defensa de los Derechos Humanos* (LIMEDDH) and with its president Adrian Ramírez. In June 2015, CART issued a statement in defence of María Elena Ontiveros<sup>4</sup>, co-accused of two charges in this case of kidnapping and murder in Mexico. Contact with Noé Robles Hernández has been restored, directly and indirectly (through his family), which will allow us to work more effectively than in the past on the defence of Mr. Robles. Contact with Pablo Solórzano Castro's family has been constant during this period. Two urgent action media releases were issued following the incomprehensible sentence of Mr. Solórzano Castro to 456 years in prison, despite a complete lack of evidence and an investigation which left no doubt of the innocence of the accused. However, we have been made aware of threats to our former colleague and president of the NGO *Gente de México por la Democracia*, Giel Meza, who has retired from active life. CART and LIMEDDH work together on this issue, providing a moral and logistical support to the family of Pablo Solórzano. A complaint was filed in June 2016 with the Supreme Council of the Judicature to challenge the legitimacy of

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<sup>4</sup> <http://www.ac-dv.org/caso-marti-maria-elena-ontiveros-mendoza-el-5-de-junio-de-2015/>.

AFTER A LONG PATH LITTERED WITH INJUSTICES,  
WITHOUT FINDING SUPPORT, OR COMFORT, WE  
WERE GIVEN A HAND AND OFFERED HELP. TODAY, I  
WANT TO THANK YOU FOR YOUR WORK, YOUR  
DEDICATION AND ESPECIALLY FOR YOUR SUPPORT  
IN THIS LEGAL WORLD FILLED WITH INJUSTICES.

Matilde Solórzano Castro, sister of Pablo Solórzano

Castro (Mexico)

examining judge, the judgement in the first instance judgement is currently on appeal for the following reasons: the conviction is not based on any credible factual evidence or on an evidence that is not product of forgery. It is unjustified and unconstitutional that the judge and the authorities do not respond to the repeated requests from the defence to establish the veracity of the allegations of torture against the victim; and finally because reliable sources have kept us informed of the possible interference and the probable commission of the offence of trading in influence on the part of a representative of the association **Alto al Secuestro**, headed by Isabel Miranda de Wallace, the judge of Cinthya Cantú Muñoz and the prosecutor. Due to irregularities in the court decision, CART is currently working on a complaint to be submitted to the Superior Council of the Judiciary to present its case against the sentence of Cinthya at the trial, and thus support the demand for review of the judgement under appeal. Also, at the invitation of David Bertet, Cinthya's sister participated in the press conference on July 11, 2016, which was held in Mexico City. CART continues to work collaboratively with the lawyer Óscar Sánchez (external collaborator) on this file.

the Court's decision and the conviction of Pablo Solórzano Castro at trial. Please note that the victim's sister participated in the press conference on July 11, 2016.

In the **Cinthya Cantu Muñoz case (Mexico)**, on which we had been working since the foundation of the Association and for which a summary report<sup>5</sup> was prepared and sent to the

examining judge, the judgement in the first instance resulted in the conviction of the victim. This



**Awareness poster: Cinthya, victim, and her mother before she was murdered.**

Former representative for the department of Caquetá to the Chamber of Deputies in Colombia, **Luis Fernando Almarío Rojas**, whose case was submitted to us in January 2015, was accused of collusion with the armed groups in Colombia (FARC and paramilitaries) and conspiracy in the murder of members of the influential Turbay family in December 2000. After a study of the prosecution's charges and the evidence submitted by the Attorney (Prosecutor) to support the charges, it was determined that irregularities and violations to the procedural rules, as well as some obvious lies in the statements of the so-called witnesses, made the authenticity of the investigation doubtful. On March 31, 2016, CART along with the Chamber of Cassation of the

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.ac-dv.org/areli-cinthya-cantu-munoz/>.

Supreme Court of Colombia filed its arguments for the application of the principle of reasonable doubt and the release of Luis Fernando Almario Rojas. This is a highly complex case, since it is rooted in the socio-political history of Colombia and the armed conflict that drives this country since the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the twentieth century. Nevertheless, our investigation, as well as our legal analysis of the judicial file, supported by the Colombian Constitution, allow us to move forward with the certainty that the proceedings against Luis Fernando Almario Rojas are flawed by serious irregularities and violations to the accused's human rights, so that it is no longer legally possible for a judge to determine the level of possible guilt (and in our opinion very hypothetical) of Mr. Almario Rojas. In March 2016, the Penal Cassation Chamber of the Supreme Court of Justice imposed an 8-year jail sentence. CART together with the accused's family will make follow-ups of the defence strategy; The Association has already expressed its interest to continue working on the file, and it will possibly go to international bodies, if the victim and his representatives decide so.

The complaint filed by CART (under its previous name, AFCDDH - Association contre la Fabrication de Coupables et pour la Défense des Droits Humains) against the Mexican State, on behalf of the citizen of Spanish origin **Arturo Bargeño Prieto** with the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights, under the reference... is still under study on the part of this organism.

The Chairman of the Association used his discretionary right<sup>6</sup> in the **Enrique Pardo Hasche** case (Colombia) to provide logistical support to Mr. Pardo Hasche's counsellor and to apply, on behalf of CART, a request for protective measures for the accused, to ensure a new fair and equitable trial. The IACHR has however refused to intervene in this case for reasons related to the expiration of deadlines to present the appeal. Please note that in this case, CART does not act as a representative of the interests of Mr. Enrique Pardo Hasche, but as logistical support, because this file did not pass through the preliminary assessment stage, which is a must for our Association to take full charge of a file.

In terms of complaints filed with the IACHR, we must add that CART supports the complaint submitted by the defence of the French citizen **Florence Cassez** against the Mexican State to obtain compensation for damages suffered during her 8 years of imprisonment, as well as to have her innocence recognized. We plan to contact the Executive Secretariat of the IACHR in order to announce our support to the complaint submitted by Florence Cassez shortly.

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<sup>6</sup> This means that the request for assistance we received in connection with this case was exceptionally not the subject of a preliminary assessment, the chairman having himself analyzed the evidence presented by the representative of the alleged victim, and having determined that the evidence received allowed to establish a high degree of credibility of the assumption of innocence of Enrique Pardo Hasche. However, CART's mandate in this case was limited to the representation of the alleged victim before international bodies.

With our official position in connection with the **Mohamad Ali Taheri** case in Iran, one more step was taken in the process of the internationalization of the Association's mission, which will allow us to study more broadly the mechanisms of the manufacturing of culprits in countries with constitutions aiming to preserve and defend human rights. An article written by David Bertet was published in August 2015 in the Huffington Post<sup>7</sup>, and the Association effectively spread the information available about the case of this Iranian academic, condemned to death by the Revolutionary Court of Iran and who has spent the last few years in confinement. Please also note our presence at the vigil held in support of Mohamad Ali Taheri on June 12, 2016, in Montreal. Our action in this file focuses on seeking political support in Iran and the countries that can have a positive influence on their neighbour. Also note that a member of the Executive Committee and an active member of the Organization work full time on this issue, in collaboration with Moisés Castello, also member of the Executive Committee and the head of the Department of International Relations.



**Mohamad Ali Taheri supporters accompanied by CART members during the vigil of June 12, 2016 (Place Pasteur, Montreal)**



**David Bertet with Judith Brassard in June 2015**

In January 2015, CART initiated its review work on the file of the Canadian **Judith Brassard**, imprisoned in Santa Marta, Colombia and sentenced to 28 years in prison in connection with the murder of her husband. Crime she was investigated for in 2008 and sentenced in 2009. The broadcast of Jean-Michel Leprince and Martín Movilla of Radio Canada alerted some volunteers of the Association, who expressed their wish to work on the file. In June 2015, David Bertet paid a first visit to Ms. Brassard in the Santa Marta prison, which initiated a relationship of trust. Since then, CART has been looking for a legal solution for the Canadian citizen to return home and to prove her innocence.

Despite an amicus curiae brief written by Ms. Giuliana Rojas of the Executive Committee in charge of the case, we regret the conviction at trial of **Yarold Leyte Quintanar** (Mexico). However, we welcome the establishment of a solidarity network around the victim and a more proactive and confident

attitude on the part of his mother, who acts as representative of the victim with the Association. The case has gone to appeal, and further we will present our arguments and our rational belief that Mr. Leyte Quintanar has been and continues to be a victim on the part of the authorities of the State of Veracruz. Next year is likely to be decisive for this case.

<sup>7</sup> [http://quebec.huffingtonpost.ca/david-bertet/droits-homme-iran-execution-torture-fouet-libertes\\_b\\_7990042.html](http://quebec.huffingtonpost.ca/david-bertet/droits-homme-iran-execution-torture-fouet-libertes_b_7990042.html).

On a similar note, despite an amicus curiae brief that we submitted, larger information campaigns, and verified evidence of torture, **Héctor Casique Fernández** in the State of Quintana Roo has not yet been judge after more than 2 years of preventive imprisonment. The Association has repeatedly expressed its concern with respect to the violation of the right of the accused to a fair trial and to be judge without undue delay.

The president of the Organization also participated by videoconference in the press conference<sup>8</sup> on July 31, 2015, which was held in the offices of CENCOS in Mexico City.



**Yaskade Fernández, mother of Héctor presents the Istanbul Protocol at a press conference. Photo: Cencos.**

To close this section dedicated to presenting our major cases, we commend the role played by CART in the release of the four following victims, during 2015-2016.

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<sup>8</sup> <http://www.cencos.org/notas-cencos/hector-casique-victima-de-tortura-presos-en-quintana-roo>.



**Martín del Campo Dodd, released in March 2015 by a decision of Mexico's Supreme Court.**

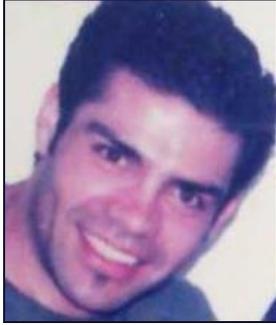
• **Martín del Campo Dodd** in March 2015: our mandate in this case was limited to the dissemination of information and factual and legal elements in partnership with the defence committee of Martín del Campo through social media. The victim suffered an injustice that lasted over 23 years. In particular, our presence on the media scene was intended to: (1) Promote the documentary *Bajo Tortura*<sup>9</sup> directed by Cristina Juarez Zepeda on the Martín del Campo Dodd case; (2) support the recommendation made in 2009 by the Inter-American Human Rights Commission asking Mexico's Supreme Court to release Mr. Martín del Campo Dodd; (3) counter the erroneous version promoted by Isabel Miranda de Wallace to keep Mr. del Campo in prison. Our involvement in this file was, however, relatively late (the last two years of his imprisonment, and our actions were part of the media support of Martín del Campo.

Our level of involvement in the case of **Nestora Salgado (Mexico)** has evolved since the publication of the last annual report. While our knowledge of the case at the end of 2014 was still new, it turned out that Nestora Salgado was a political prisoner, who had been unfairly accused of kidnappings and imprisoned for two years in retaliation for her struggle in the State of Guerrero against the cartels trafficking young women and children, and her relentless complaints made against corrupt officials in this part of Mexico. Because of the seriousness of the case, but also of its transcendence for Mexico, as well as the involvement of Isabel Miranda de Wallace (*Alto al secuestro*) and Alejandro Marti (Mexico SOS) in the disinformation campaign by the media of this country against Nestora, this case required from us greater participation than we expected at the beginning. Following publications of our own, interviews (for example, on the portal of FEMCAI), and the dissemination of existing articles, CART actively participated in the campaign for the release of Nestora Salgado, which was achieved in March 2016. Today, Nestora Salgado is part of the allies and of the group of CART's external collaborators. A series of lectures in Canada on the topic of human rights violations in Mexico is being developed and scheduled for the first quarter of the year 2016-2017



**Nestora Salgado Garcia, released in March 2016.**

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZHWBy7Y019w>.



Juan Carlos Cortez  
Vallarta

In the Vallarta case, CART played an important role in the release of **Alejandro and Juan Carlos Cortez Vallarta**. This release was obtained on appeal on February 25, 2016. At a press conference a week after their release, Alejandro and Juan Carlos hailed the role that the **Canadian Association for Rights and Truth** played in securing their release. In July 2015, a 40-page amicus curiae brief had in fact been sent to the judge highlighting the violations of legal procedures, of human rights of the accused and clearly demonstrates that both individuals have been victims of false accusations and torture. The



Alejandro Cortez  
Vallarta Cisneros

Vallarta case is currently the major case in which the Association is involved in Mexico, to the same extent to the Wallace and the Marti cases, due to the number of innocent people incarcerated in these three cases that goes beyond simple isolated situations. Our commitment to the Vallarta family is total until the release of the other victims in this case is achieved (an extension of the Cassez case: Mario, René and Israel Vallarta Cisneros). We commend to this effect the remarkable investigative work done by the Belgian journalist Emmanuelle Steels, with the publication of her book *El Teatro del Engaño*<sup>10</sup>.

We also welcome the release of **Margarita Gamboa** (Mexico) whom David Bertet has accompanied and supported in her efforts since 2011, and whom we continue to follow in her process of reintegration into society.

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<sup>10</sup> STEELS, Emmanuelle. *El Teatro del Engaño*. Editions Gualbo, Mexico, 2015.

<http://www.casadellibro.com/ebook-el-teatro-del-engano-ebook/9786073129664/2602501>

## SECTION IV: Action plan for 2016-2017... and beyond

At the end of the operational year 2015-2016, we completed our first three-year cycle of existence. The time has come for us to start a new cycle and to present the directions that will guide our growth for the next three years. We will then present the necessary changes to be able to successfully accomplish these directions.

### 1.- Two major new directions for the next three years

✓ 1st direction: Consolidate our presence and enhance our role as an international human rights organization, at the provincial (Quebec) and national (Canada) levels.

According to objective 4 of the Statutes and Regulations (Article III, page 2), which states that the fourth goal of the Association is:

"To sensitize, raise awareness and educate the Canadian public opinion (including Quebec) with respect to cases of fundamental human rights violations."

✓ 2nd direction: To become one of Canada's favourite voice in the world and to ensure that through our points of view about the rights and freedom of the unjustly incarcerated innocent people, the Canadian and the universal values will be represented and promoted.

According to objective 5 of the Statutes and Regulations (Article III, page 2), which states that the fifth goal of the Association is to

"To defend and promote basic democratic values and principles, as set out in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, including the presumption of innocence, the prohibition of torture and the right to a fair and equitable trial."

### 2.- Concrete objectives for 2016-2017

- **Opening a Montreal branch of the Association**, through an office with a physical address, which will be a special meeting place for work teams, and the designated workplace for the employee(s) of the Association.

- In addition to the volunteer structure of the Executive Committee, **two employees will be hired**, the first one on a full-time basis to the position of Executive Director, and the second one on a part-time basis as Assistant to Executive Management, structure which would be placed under the supervision of the Office (Chairman and Treasurer) which will delegate to him/her the execution of his/her tasks (see mandate of the Office in article IX of the Statutes and Regulations)

- **Offer internal training sessions** by seasoned workers of the Association to new volunteers, as well as workshops by these same workers but available to a wider audience. At this point, we will integrate the active participation of at least 1 member of the Executive

Committee in a provincial or national major human rights conference in Canada as guest speaker.

- **Disseminate our work defending human rights** among vulnerable people, especially of manufactured culprits in three Francophone Quebec media and three Anglophone Canadian media, whether print, radio or television.

- **Conduct a series of (3) forums** in Colombia, Mexico, and then in Canada for the closing forum. These three events will aim to present to the general public, policy makers, and community stakeholders working in the field of human rights, real cases of manufactured culprits in Latin America and to arise questions about the variants and constants in the processes involved in the manufacturing of culprits. Ultimately, at the 3rd forum to be held in Canada, a summary will be published containing concrete recommendations to policymakers to have a law that protects more effectively fundamental rights (presumption of innocence, prohibition of torture, right to a fair trial) and prevents the mechanisms of manufacturing culprits. This project will be developed by the [Canadian Association for Rights and Truth](#) together with the foundation [Fonde Justicia y Verdad](#) (Colombia).

### **3.- Action Measures**

Achieving the goals for the year 2016-2017 is based on an increase in the financial resources of the Organization. This will now occupy a significant part of our work starting this new triennial cycle of the Association. To this end, we are considering:

- A) To conduct a new fundraising campaign in the first third of the year 2016-2017 through the Global Giving site, the objective of the funding now being fixed at CAN\$50,000.
- B) To increase fivefold the number of contributions of the associate members.
- C) To find sources of private funding, recurrent if possible, from donors and institutions offering grants of \$5,000 or more.
- D) To register CART as a charity with the federal government and to get a charity number that will allow us to issue receipts for income tax purposes to individual donors.

All major projects require major transformations. While the administrative structure (the division in Board of Directors, Office and Executive Committee), the volunteer base, the overall philosophy, the general goals, the three fields of expertise (legal, media, psychology), the methodology of the case study, the requirements of transparency and collaboration will remain the same, a number of changes are to be expected, some of the main ones are listed here:

Regarding the internal life of the Organization:

- A) To provide the Executive Committee with internal regulations and a code of ethics.
- B) To develop a document presenting a protocol, based on our experience, to be used as a preliminary review of the requests for assistance by the members of the Executive Committee working on cases of alleged manufactured culprits.

With respect to the presentation of the Organization and marketing strategy:

- A) To change the name of the Organization: the new name will be more succinct than the current name of the Association, common to the three official languages (English, French, Spanish), and will be ratified at a meeting of the Board of Directors.
- B) To change the logo of the Organization
- C) To replace the Organization's website

These latest changes are designed to convey a more inclusive and more optimistic image of the mission of the Organization, so that potential donors can see themselves reflected in the new image. It has indeed been established during working meetings of members of the Executive Committee that the length of the name of the Organization could be an obstacle to its dissemination, and that the current logo projected not only an image of severity, authority, but also of mysticism that could alienate donors and potential broadcasters.



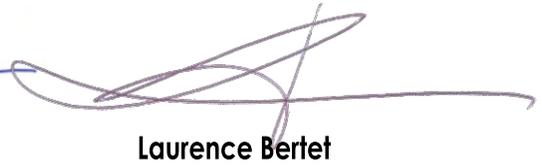
**David Bertet**

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**Dominique Théberge**

Treasurer



**Laurence Bertet**

Secretary



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