



2018 HRFN Conference in Mexico City

Plenary Session Speakers

*Countering impunity for grave human rights violations and corruption in Latin America: lessons from the field*



**Ana Lorena Delgadillo** is a Mexican lawyer. She is the CEO and founding partner of the Foundation for Justice and Democratic Rule of Law, where she works since 2011. She has promoted along with other organizations, projects related to access to truth and justice for migrants, such as a Forensic Commission to identify the remains resulting from three massacres of migrants that occurred in northern Mexico, and the External Support Mechanism for the Search and Access to Justice for Migrants. She is one of the driving forces behind the collective #FiscalíaQueSirva (Prosecutor that works) aimed at achieving structural changes in the administration of justice in Mexico.

Before working for the Foundation for Justice, she participated in various governmental and non-governmental spaces on issues of access to justice, human rights, and women's rights, among others. She was in charge of the Deputy Attorney General's Office for Victims in Mexico City, worked with the Argentine Forensic Anthropology Team in the project to identify the remains of women in Ciudad Juarez and Chihuahua. She worked in the Commission for the Prevention and Eradication of Violence Against Women in Ciudad Juarez and Chihuahua and in the Human Rights Commission of Mexico City. She has litigated a number of cases involving grave human rights violations at both the national and international level.



**Arturo Aguilar**

Executive Director, Seattle International Foundation

Jose Arturo Aguilar is an internationally-renown human rights' defender, investigator and political strategist with over 20 years championing justice and democracy in Latin America.

Most recently, he served as Senior Political Officer to Commissioner Ivan Velasquez, head of the UN-backed International Commission against Impunity in Guatemala (CICIG). The commission has been a driving force in a series of investigations against top government officials, and it even helped inspire a nationwide protest movement in 2015 that led to the resignation and eventual imprisonment of president Otto Perez Molina and at least 40 others for public corruption.

Prior to his work at CICIG, Aguilar was Secretary of Strategic and Private Affairs to Guatemala's first woman Attorney General, Claudia Paz y Paz, named by Forbes as one of the "five most powerful women changing the world" and a leading candidate for the 2013 Nobel Peace Prize. A key member during her tenure, Aguilar built key alliances with regional governments in Latin America, Europe and across all levels of the U.S. government. He was also instrumental in developing a large network of political contacts and allies across different sectors of society. The team made strides in the prosecution of organized crime resulting in a significant drop in impunity rates. They also made world history in the prosecution of Efraim Rios Montt, the first former head of state to be convicted of genocide by a court in his own country.

His passion for service began while his home country of Guatemala was still at war. At just 18 years old, Arturo was instrumental to solving the murder of Bishop Gerardi in Guatemala—one of the first landmark cases against the military in the post-civil war era, as an investigator and later Coordinator of the Legal Area of the Office of

Human Rights the Archbishop of Guatemala (ODHAG). The case was immortalized by American novelist and *New Yorker* contributing writer Francisco Goldman in “The Art of Political Murder: Who Killed the Bishop?” Aguilar went on to champion other cases, eventually landing a key position as the coordinator for strategic litigation at the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Guatemala (OHCHR), where he trained and advised large groups of indigenous peoples’ NGOs on strategic constitutional litigation before being recruited by Attorney General Paz y Paz in 2011.



**Carlos Martín Beristain** is a physician and a doctor in psychology who for the last twenty five years has been working on holistic/comprehensive support to victims of grave human rights violations and their families. He coordinated the report “Guatemala: Never Again”, has worked with victims of Colombia's internal armed conflict, with truth commissions in Peru, Paraguay and Ecuador; and in the Sahara with victims and relatives of the disappeared. He was a member of the Interdisciplinary Group of Independent Experts (GIEI, by its acronym in Spanish) created to provide technical assistance in the investigation of the forced disappearance of the 43 students of Ayotzinapa and to make recommendations to the Mexican state in regards to the issue of forced disappearances in the country.



**Mercedes Doretti**

Project Leader, EAAF Co-Founder & Director - North America & Central America Projects

Mercedes Doretti is a forensic anthropologist who investigates human rights violations, collecting evidence and presenting critical findings to tribunals, human rights organizations, and special commissions in dozens of countries. She received a Licenciatura (1987) in anthropological sciences from the University of Buenos Aires, Argentina, and completed coursework in biological anthropology and biomechanics at Hunter College, City University of New York. A founding member of the Argentine Forensic Anthropology Team, she continues to serve as an EAAF senior researcher and as the director of the organization’s New York City and Mexico offices. She has worked in over 20 countries in Latin America, Africa, Asia, and Eastern Europe on forensic investigations and forensic training workshops. From 2003 to 2005, she was president of the Latin American Association of Forensic Anthropology (ALAF). In 2007, she received a MacArthur Fellowship award. She received a *doctoral honoris causa* degree from the Argentine National University at Buenos Aires in 2014 and one from the New School in 2016. In April 2018, she received Mexican senate approval to sit as the independent forensic expert on the *Consejo Nacional Ciudadano* (National Citizen Council), a non-governmental advisory committee that will advise Mexico’s new National Search System for Disappeared People.