

Frank Rafael La Rue Lewy

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EXPERIENCE SUMMARY



I have extensive experience in Human Rights, democratic development, social communication, education, analysis and Latin American political issues. Human rights lawyer in cases at the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the Inter-American Court on Human Rights and lobbying at the United Nations' System on Human Rights, as well as teaching at university level, member of the Government Cabinet in my country as the Presidential Human Rights Commissioner from where I designed and implemented Public Policies. Special Rapporteur on the Right to Freedom of Opinion and Expression, for the United Nations' Human Rights Council.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Human Rights: I have worked on human rights over the past 32 years. I was the founder and Director of the Center for Human Right's Legal Action – CALDH- (for its Spanish acronym), which became the first NGO to present Guatemalan Cases at the Inter-American Human Rights System, 1990. In 2000 I coordinated the work of the CALDH research and legal team in the formulation and presentation of the first Genocide Case to be presented in Court, according to what was established by the Commission for Historical Clarification CEH (for its Spanish acronym) – Truth Commission of the Peace Process.

As a Human Rights Activist, I was **nominated to the Nobel Peace Prize in 2003 for my work in the Genocide Case in Guatemala.**

Currently, I am the President of the Board of Directors at the DEMOS Institute, an NGO dedicated to promote democratic values and to support the participation of youth, women and indigenous population in Guatemala.

I am also the mandate holder as the UN Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, to which I was appointed on 2008 by the UN Human Rights Council.

Development of Policies: I worked in the promotion of social development policies, guidelines and standards for working with indigenous people and minorities. These include the National Policy on Human Rights, The National Policy for Education on Human Rights, The Youth Violence Prevention Policy, and the Open Door Policy for Special Rapporteurs and Human Rights Commissioners from the Inter-American and the UN Human Rights System.

Management: I have managed NGO's and social development programs, both in my native country and internationally. From different management positions I planned, organized, implemented and evaluated programs as well as developed and managed budgets. I have managed staff from 5 to more than 100 employees, and in these positions have developed performance appraisal standards.

Organization, Implementation and Evaluation of Conferences and Meetings: I have organized national, regional and international conferences, including all aspects related, such as purpose, goals and objectives, development of agendas.

Teaching: for over ten years I have worked with students both in academic settings and in non formal education settings.

OTHER SKILLS:

Languages: Native Spanish and Native English

Computer: Knowledge of windows environment, Office and network software.

EDUCATION

1965 – 1970 **Senior High School** –School “Liceo Javier”, Guatemala

1971 – 1975 **Law Studies**

Faculty of Law and Social Sciences at San Carlos University, Guatemala

1981 – 1985 **Foreign American Policy**

School of International Studies

Johns Hopkins University

Washington, D.C., U.S.A.

1986 **Human Rights and the Inter-American System**

American University

Washington DC, U.S.A.

1994 **Alternative Conflict Resolution**

Eastern Mennonite University, Harrisonburg, VA

RELEVANT PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

UN Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the Right to Freedom of Opinion and Expression of the Special Procedures of the UN Human Rights Council.
(first period 2008-2011; second period 2011-to date)

- **Official missions and reports:** the Maldives, South Korea, Honduras, Mexico, Algeria, Hungary, Israel-Occupied Palestine Territories.
- **As Special Rapporteur have developed a series of academic or regional consultations on specific issues related to thematic reports:**
 - An Expert meeting on legitimate limitations to freedom of expression (Washington D.C. 2009)
 - Regional expert consultation on Freedom of Expression and internet (Buenos Aires, Cairo, Johannesburg, Delhi, Bangkok and Stockholm 2010-2011)
 - Four regional consultation of the High Commissioner on Hate Speech (Vienna, Nairobi, Santiago and Bangkok 2011)
 - Developed Regional Consultations on Social and New Media and Protection of Journalists (Singapore, Florence, Panama, Dakar 2012)

I have also participated in two official panel discussions within the agenda of the UN Human Rights Council on Protection of Journalists (2011) and Freedom of Expression on internet (2012).

Human Rights advisor to the Foreign Ministry of Guatemala on the promotion of the Human Rights Direction of the Foreign Ministry

President of the Board of Directors, DEMOS Institute (By its Spanish Acronym) is an NGO dedicated to promote democratic values and to support the progress of youth, women and

indigenous population. As President of the Board of Directors, I am responsible for the strategic direction of all of DEMOS programs.

Presidential Commissioner for Human Rights: a Governmental Cabinet Post for which I was appointed on January 2004. As Human Rights Commissioner I was advisor to the President, Vice-President and the Cabinet as well as coordinator of Human Rights Policies for the Government. I also had under my mandate the responsibility to represent the State in Human Rights issues and cases before international multilateral bodies in particular the UN System and the Inter-American Human Rights System. During my tenure I was able to change the policy of the Guatemalan State into a policy of full recognition of the Truth of Human Rights violations for recognition of responsibility of the State when such responsibility was due and full recognition of the responsibility of the State to guarantee the Right to Justice and reparation to the victims and their relatives on such cases. 2004 to 2008

During my tenure as President of COPREDEH (for its Spanish acronym) I proposed and was approved the Human Rights Public Policy, Public Policy in Education and Human Rights and the Youth Violence Prevention Public Policy; as well as the ten year work plan on Human Rights for the State.

I led the legal team of COPREDEH that drafted the proposed mandate for the International Commission against Impunity in Guatemala –CICIG- and accompanied Vice-President to negotiate with the Department of Political Affairs DPA of the UN up to the moment of its creation. The agreement between the State of Guatemala and the Secretary General of the UN that creates CICIG and establishes its mandate was signed on Dec. 12th, 2006. After that I coordinated the education and information efforts with civil society and the advocacy initiatives towards Congress of Guatemala until the Agreement was ratified by two thirds of its members on the 3rd of August 2007, CICIG was established on September that same year.

Executive Director, Center for Human Rights Legal Action (Washington, D.C. and Guatemala): Founder and Executive Director of a Human Rights NGO, specialized on presenting cases about Human Rights Violations in Guatemala before the Inter-American Human Rights system. Once in Guatemala, the Center became a national reference on Human Rights work, and became the first Human Rights NGO to address the Economic, Social and Cultural Rights at the moment when most NGO were concerned only about civil rights. It also became the first NGO to address the Rights of impaired population in Guatemala. As executive director, I also served as delegate to the Civil Society Assembly, convened by the Negotiation Parties within the Guatemalan Peace process scheme.

Also, I was a founder of the National Movement on Human Rights, the broadest coalition of Human Rights NGO ever developed in Guatemala 1990 to 2004. As Executive Director I promoted with other organizations the creation of the Monitoring Unit for Human Rights Defenders (Unidad de Defensores de DDHH -UDEFEQUA).

Central American Analyst, Center for International Policy (Washington, D.C): I had to move to Washington, D.C. due to political persecution in 1980. While been there, Ambassador Robert White invited me to work as a Central American Analyst, which allowed me to lobby US Congress and its policy towards the region. 1980-1990. At the same time, I worked as Analyst and “Senior fellow” for the Working Group on US and Latin America Relations, the Washington Office on Latin America and the Network of solidarity with the People of Guatemala, all of this as a pro-bono. 1980-1990

Legal Advisor, National Central Workers Union. I worked as legal advisor for the greatest workers union formed in Guatemala during the 1970's. I did this work at the moment when

labor union activists were being persecuted by paramilitary organizations and State Sponsored terrorist organizations. 1975-1980

OTHER RELEVANT PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- **Director of the Monthly Magazine “DEBATE” 1998-2004**
- **Director of the Weekly Radio Program “STARIGHT TALK” 2002**
- **“Associate Fellow” - Program of the Migrant Rights, University of Chicago, Illinois, U.S.A.2002**
- **Human Rights Professor - Master’s Program on Human Rights. Rafael Landívar University, Guatemala. 2001-2002**
- **Director of the Weekly Radio Show “WITH VOICE AND VOTE” 2002-2003**
- **Director of the Weekly Radio Show “The Right to know your rights” 2005**
- **Director of the Youth Component of the “Mirador Electoral”, a program designed for young people to act as human rights observers during the 2003 electoral campaign in all the municipal districts of the Country.**
- **Advisor of the Culture of Peace Program in Guatemala.**
- **Member of the National Commission for Reparations of the Government of Guatemala.**
- **Director of the National Program for Finding the Disappeared people during the Armed Conflict of Guatemala.**
- **Director and Speaker of the TV weekly Program “Contrastes” Guatevisión 2002**
- **Development and proposal for the Public Policy on Youth Violence Prevention. 2004**
- **Collaborated with the radio show “Diálogo por la tarde” Radio Nuevo Mundo. 2007-2008**
- **Development of the Social Communication Program in Guatemala about the 60th anniversary of the Universal Human Rights Declaration, for the Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights – OACNUDH-. 2008**
- **Weekly columnist of “Reflexiones” Published by Prensa Libre. 2008**
- **Member of the Cámara de Locutores de Guatemala (Chamber of announcers of Guatemala)**
- **Member of the Association of Journalists in Guatemala**
- **Member of the UN interagency task force for the Protection of Journalists coordinated by UNESCO**

CONFERENCES

I have been invited to dictate conferences or to be a Keynote Speaker at several places, among them the following:

United States:

- American University – Washington, D.C.
- Johns Hopkins SAIS – Washington, D.C.
- George Mason University – VA
- Richmond University and Virginia Commonwealth University , Richmond, VA
- Berkeley University – California
- Columbia University – New York
- New York University – New York
- Harvard University – MA
- Duke University – NC
- Birmingham University – AL

Canada:

- York University
- Carlton University

Europe:

- University of London – ILAS
- Dublin
- England Bar Association
- Scotland Bar Association
- University of Friburgo – Switzerland
- UNESCO

RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

A weekly column in the daily journal Prensa Libre of Guatemala

Several newspapers and magazines have published my articles. I also wrote an article on Human Rights and Poverty that was published by FLACSO Guatemala in the summer of 2007.

Interviews published on issues such as peaceful demonstrations on Freedom of Expression, Limitations on Freedom of Expression 2010.

My reports on Freedom of Expression and Internet have generated a new approach to this issue adding Human Rights perspective to Internet and developing the importance of Access as an important and fundamental element to exercise freedom of expression and several other Rights which has become a generally accepted position at the UN General Assembly and in the debate of the MDG's.