

PERMANENT COUNCIL OF THE  
ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES  
COMMITTEE ON INTER-AMERICAN SUMMITS MANAGEMENT  
AND CIVIL SOCIETY PARTICIPATION  
IN OAS ACTIVITIES

OEA/Ser.G  
CP/CISC-794/15  
30 October 2015  
Original: Spanish

APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION PRESENTED  
PURSUANT TO ITEM 6 OF THE GUIDELINES FOR  
PARTICIPATION BY CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS  
IN OAS ACTIVITIES [CP/RES. 759 (1217/99)]

[*Centro de Análisis Forense y Ciencias Aplicadas (CAFCA)*]  
[Center for Forensic Analysis and Applied Science, CAFCA]

ANALYSIS OF ELEMENTS FOR REGISTRATION BY THE *CENTRO DE ANÁLISIS FORENSE Y CIENCIAS APLICADAS* (CAFCA) (CENTER FOR FORENSIC ANALYSIS AND APPLIED SCIENCE, CAFCA) TO PARTICIPATE IN OAS ACTIVITIES

This document was prepared by the Department of International Affairs, Secretariat for External Relations, to provide information to the member states of the Organization of American States (OAS) on the civil society organization *Centro de Análisis Forense y Ciencias Aplicadas* (CAFCA).

The information contained in this report is in response to resolution CP/RES. 759 (1217/99), “Guidelines for the Participation of Civil Society Organizations in OAS Activities.” This document includes a summary and list of documentation presented by the *Centro de Análisis Forense y Ciencias Aplicadas* (CAFCA).

**1. Background**

The *Centro de Análisis Forense y Ciencias Aplicadas* (CAFCA) is a nongovernmental, nonprofit organization founded on December 14, 1999, in Guatemala City, Guatemala, with the mission of strengthening the rule of law by helping to build full democracy in Guatemala.

CAFCA seeks to foster full and comprehensive application of justice, providing technical inputs and advisory services and monitoring and supporting victims of human rights violations and state institutions.

CAFCA works in three areas:

- **Forensic Anthropology:** CAFCA seeks to generate technical, scientific, and methodological inputs to strengthen comprehensive investigation and justice processes through document analysis, sociohistoric research, expert forensic anthropology assessments, and training. These activities began in 2000 with a compendium of data on cases in which victims of Guatemala's internal armed conflict were exhumed. This led to formation of a database that has facilitated CAFCA inputs, special expert analyses, and human rights investigations.
- **Society and Community:** CAFCA strengthens community participation in the processes of recovering the historical memory, redress, societal oversight, and social demands for justice. It works with communities, local and national organizations, and victims of the internal armed conflict. It establishes ties with international human rights bodies, Guatemalan governmental institutions, and other civil society organizations.
- **Law:** CAFCA endeavors to advance comprehensive criminal investigation and justice through advisory services, strengthening processes, strategic litigation, and research; and by offering training to agents of the Criminal Investigation Directorate of the Office of the Public Prosecutor and to National Civil Police officers. This

section also follows up on judicial decisions in cases of grave human rights violations.

CAFCA works directly with the Office of the Public Prosecutor, the National Redress Program, the Office of the Human Rights Attorney, the National Civil Police, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, *Acción Ciudadana*, Impunity Watch, the United Nations transitional justice program, and the International Committee of the Red Cross.

CAFCA receives funding for its projects from OXFAM, Amnesty International, the Swiss Embassy in Guatemala, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the British Embassy in Guatemala, ActionAID, Caritas, TROCAIRE, etc.

CAFCA submitted its request for registration to the OAS on June 18, 2015.

**2. Name, address, and date of establishment of the CSO**

Name of the organization: *Centro de Análisis Forense y Ciencias Aplicadas (CAFCA)*

Address: 1<sup>a</sup>. Calle 7-45, zona 1  
Guatemala City, Guatemala

Telephone: (502) 22545841 – 22894434 - 22543723

E-mail address: [cafca@cafcatemala.org](mailto:cafca@cafcatemala.org)

Website: <http://www.cafcaguatemala.org/>

President: José Rafael Herrarte Méndez

Date of establishment: December 14, 1999

**3. Primary areas of activity and contributions that could be of interest to the OAS**

CAFCA works in the areas of human rights, justice, and democracy. The primary areas of activity and contributions of the organization that could be of interest to the OAS include:

- Promoting comprehensive justice through forensic anthropology with investigative techniques, database creation, and training of the necessary technical personnel to support historical criminal investigation processes.
- Assisting in reconciliation processes and recovery of the national historical memory by encouraging community participation and societal oversight of government policies on repatriation.

- Advocating for human rights through investigative work, publication of related materials, advisory services, and support services to victims' and women's groups fighting for reparations.
- Maintaining alliances with other actors, such as national and international nongovernmental organizations, public institutions, and research centers, with which it collaborates in preparing reports, providing training, and promoting social justice and human rights.

#### **4. Identification of potential areas of collaboration with the OAS**

CAFCA offers to collaborate with the OAS in the following areas:

- Supporting the Section of Institutional Strengthening in Mediation and Dialogue of the OAS Department of Sustainable Democracy and Special Missions by publicizing its work and activities among Guatemalan civil society and nongovernmental organizations;
- Assisting and collaborating with the Department of Public Security (DPS) of the Secretariat for Multidimensional Security on matters pertaining to forensic experts and human rights;
- Supporting IACHR activities to promote and protect human rights, advisory services to communities as they build cases for presentation to the Court, follow-up, and attending thematic hearings; and
- Participating in related hemispheric discussions that are open to civil society and sending recommendations to the OAS member states as inputs for events such as OAS General Assembly sessions, Permanent Council meetings, periods of sessions of the IACHR, etc.

#### **5. Documents submitted by the CSO to the OAS**

- Letter to the OAS Secretary General, June 18, 2015
- Institutional mission statement
- 2014 Funding Sources
- Articles of incorporation
- Statutes
- 2014 annual report