

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

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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)]

[Ciudadanos en Apoyo a los Derechos Humanos, A.C. (CADHAC)]

ANALYSIS OF THE APPLICATION BY *CIUDADANOS EN APOYO A LOS DERECHOS HUMANOS, A.C.* TO BE REGISTERED WITH THE OAS

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 *Ciudadanos en Apoyo a los Derechos Humanos, A.C. [Citizens Supporting Human Rights, A.C. (CADHAC)]*

The information contained in this report is provided pursuant to resolution CP/RES. 759 (1217/99), “Guidelines for the Participation of Civil Society Organizations in OAS Activities,” and includes a summary and a list of data and documentation presented by *Ciudadanos en Apoyo a los Derechos Humanos, A.C.* in accordance with the aforementioned Guidelines.

1. Background

Ciudadanos en Apoyo a los Derechos Humanos, A.C. (CADHAC) is a nongovernmental organization founded in Guadalupe City, Nuevo León, Mexico, on April 23, 1993, with a mission to work at the grassroots level to build citizenship and contribute to processes to promote human dignity, especially in the quest for respect for human rights.

Although CADHAC was created by church communities in Guadalupe City, Nuevo León, given the magnitude of the task, secular individuals joined in to help promote respect for human dignity.

CADHAC has a Board of Directors as its highest decision-making body, as well as an Advisory and Legal Council. It also has a Directorate, which is divided into the areas of education, communication, and comprehensive and legal advocacy.

CADHAC is a non-profit civil society organization that is independent of government, political parties, businesses, or unions. The organization also handles a variety of issues, based on three guiding principles—autonomy, plurality, and a comprehensive approach to human rights—its efforts devoted primarily to defending cases of abuse by the police, military, and prison authorities in the State of New León, Mexico.

It specializes as well in promoting and defending the rights of individuals, particularly those in detention; defending human integrity in criminal proceedings; and protecting convicts that were abused, treated inhumanely, or tortured. It also fights for fair trials and due process. CADHAC has thus far broadened its coverage from dissemination of human rights-related issues to active advocacy before the courts and government agencies.

Through legal action, CADHAC has helped find persons who have disappeared and has provided comprehensive support that includes counseling for family members. Among its notable activities is an initiative presented to Congress in May 2011 to amend the State Penal Code to

include the forced disappearance of persons as an independent crime. The success of working sessions and activism led by CADHAC and family members of persons who have disappeared resulted in the November 13, 2012 passage of the legal definition of this act as a crime. CADHAC is currently drafting and reviewing a protocol to seek out and investigate cases of persons who have disappeared.

The organization finances its activities through voluntary contributions from its members and through support from national and international foundations such as the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture, Amnesty International, and Sertull.

CADHAC applied for registration with the OAS on July 9, 2013.

2. Name, address, and date of establishment

Name of Organization:	Ciudadanos en Apoyo a los Derechos Humanos, A.C. (CADHAC)]
Address:	Av. Padre Mier 617 Pte. Monterrey, Nuevo León, Mexico C.P. 64000
Telephone:	(81) 834- 09220.
E-mail address:	cadhac@cadhac.org
Website:	www.cadhac.org
Executive Director:	Consuelo Morales Elizondo
Date established:	November 23, 1993

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

Ciudadanos en Apoyo a los Derechos Humanos, A.C. (CADHAC) is engaged in promoting a culture to respect and defend human rights, taking a comprehensive approach. The main areas of activity and contributions of the CSO that may be of interest to the OAS include:

- Championing human rights promotion and defense through holistic advocacy incorporating legal support, mental health counseling, social management, monitoring of social rehabilitation of individuals who have done illegal acts, individual and organizational group support, educational activities, etc.;
- Creating civil society awareness in order to get human dignity to be respected and defended, this being considered as a cause in itself;

- Receiving complaints, conducting investigations, preparing opinions and guiding individuals on filing complaints against authorities or institutions involved in cases of human rights violations; and
- Promoting institutional strengthening through strategy reviews, evaluations-planning, and team-building.

4. Identification of potential areas of collaboration with the OAS

Ciudadanos en Apoyo a los Derechos Humanos, A.C. (CADHAC) proposes to support the OAS in the following areas:

- Participation in visits, conferences, seminars, and meetings with representatives of governments, academic institutions, and nongovernmental organizations, among others, to disseminate information and promote broader awareness about what the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights does;
- Contribution to hemispheric debates, including civil society contributions to OAS member states for activities of the Organization, such as the General Assembly and meetings of the Permanent Council; and
- Support for the efforts of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) by drafting and delivering reports to its rapporteurships to serve as input for human rights protection, promoting protection of fundamental human rights, and serving as an intermediary to facilitate complaints and grievances as a faster means.

5. Documents submitted by the CSO to the OAS

- Letter to the OAS Secretary General, dated July 9, 2013
- Constitution
- Statutes
- 2013 Annual Activities Report
- Institutional mission statement
- 2012 Financial Statements