

Report on Activities - 2014

1. Institutional Activity

During 2014 RESDAL signed memorandums of understanding with:

- The Military Cadets School of Colombia (ESMIC).
- The Oxford Research Group, based in London.
- The Inter-American Defense Board (IADB).

Networking through website and social media:

97, 800 visits
2,176 Facebook friends
2,017 followers on Twitter

The website was redesigned and two new sections were included: Gender and Public Security.

2. On Programs

The Challenges on Public Security

RESDAL worked on the collection and systematization of data for the *Public Security Index*. The 2013 Edition, including Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama, was distributed in-countries by RESDAL's representatives, through their participation at regional and international events.

A key activity on that regard was a fieldwork in **Belize**, a country that will be incorporated as a case study to the new *Index's* edition. Matthew Budd was in charge of the research activities, being RESDAL the first civil society regional organization visiting the country. Local authorities were helpful and receptive, and meetings with senior officials from local security institutions were achieved.

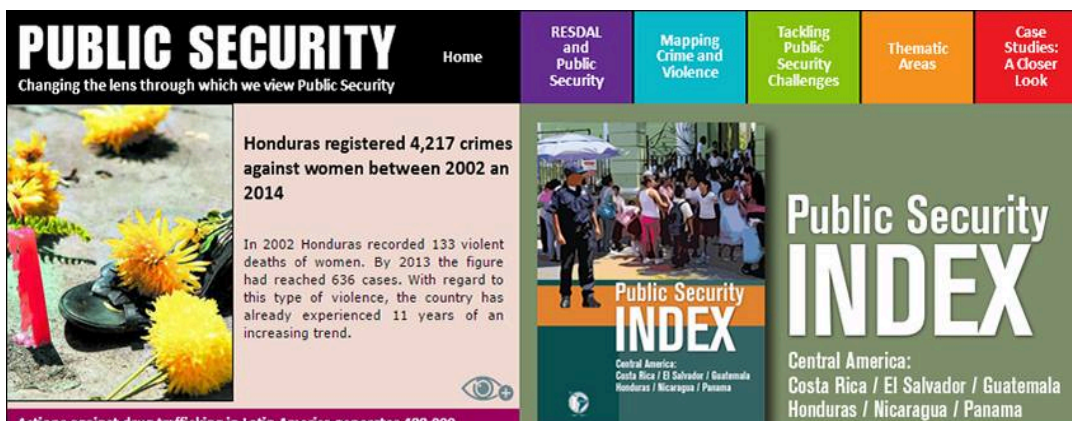
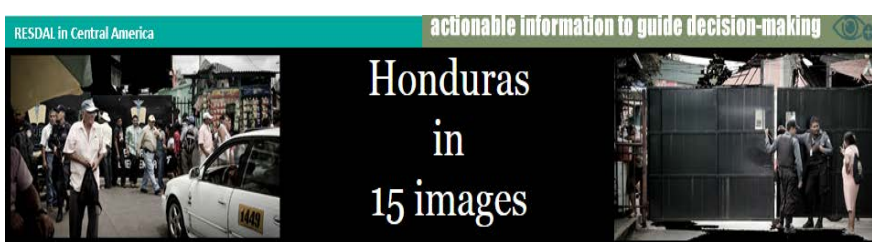


Fieldworks were also undertaken in **El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras** and **Nicaragua**. On September 18th, RESDAL organized along with CEDOH (*Centro de Documentación de Honduras*) a Forum on "Public Security in Central America: the power of the information and strengthen of public institutions", with the participation of sixty stakeholders. On November 2014, Marcela Donadio and Juan Rial visited El Salvador in order to hold meetings with key local security actors, and Samanta Kussrow visited Nicaragua where the *Public Security Index* and the *Comparative Atlas of Defence in Latin America and the Caribbean* were presented supported by the American University in Managua (UAM) and the Institute of Strategic Studies and Public Policy (IEEPP). Paz Tibiletti developed the meetings in Guatemala, and was also part of the *Regional Conference for Revision of the Geneva Declaration on Armed Conflict and Violence*.

The *Public Security Index* was also presented in Ottawa, Canada, and in Washington DC, USA. – In the UK, Matthew Budd presented the RESDAL products at the London School of Economics (Human Security Research Unit y Latin American Program), the British Library of Political Science, the Oxford Research Group and the University College of London’s Institute of the Americas.

Since the *Index* was published 30 different newspapers used it as a reference in Central American countries, Mexico, the US and the United Kingdom. RESDAL representatives were also interviewed by TV programs in Honduras and Nicaragua. The production of articles and newsletters are part of the efforts seeking to raise awareness on the security problems in the region.

In this context, on September-October 2014 a professional photographer, Laura Dalto, carried on a documentary work in Honduras, reflecting images on the situation in this country. The fieldwork covered Tegucigalpa and San Pedro Sula, and was supported by elements of the National and the Military Police. The images link security with hospitals, schools, government institutions and border crossing points among other spots.



A new security section was also developed on RESDAL’s website. It presents key challenges.

security data on the region, the map of crime, and current challenges. (<http://www.resdal.org/ing/security/index.html>).

Gender, Security and SCR 1325

In 2007 RESDAL undertook an extensive Peace and Security program, focusing first on Latin America with a pioneer study of the incorporation of women in the armed forces of eleven Latin American countries. The dissemination of that first study and the three years of engagement in discussions, workshops, and one-on-one dialogues with decision and opinion-makers resulted in the incorporation of the subject in the regional agenda. As a natural extension of RESDAL’s work and expertise on the subject, the project then moved to the global arena, with RESDAL engaging in two case studies of Peacekeeping Missions where Latin American contingents were heavily deployed: MINUSTAH (Haiti) and MONUSCO (DRC).

Among the achievements of RESDAL's work were not only an international conference held in Buenos Aires and chaired by the then Executive Director of UN Women, Michelle Bachelet, with the presence of representatives of MINUSTAH and MONUSCO and government and military officials of DRC, Haiti, and TCCs, but also the appointment of gender focal points in all contingents of MINUSTAH, the direct engagement of the Ministry of Gender of the DRC with Latin American counterparts, the production of a joint report between RESDAL and the Gender Unit of MINUSTAH, and the book "Engendering Peacekeeping", which has been distributed and read widely.

During 2014, the purpose was to build upon these foundations through a case study in Lebanon, taking as the axis of its work UNIFIL and using a methodology and approach tested and refined in the course of the initiatives mentioned above. It is a mission operating in a country that, due to its diversity, its small territory, the regionalised conflicts that have engulfed it, and the volatility of the present context, is a microcosm of the problems of the Middle East. Lebanon has also the peculiarity of hosting different UN Missions and Representatives as well as ESCWA aside from the regular deployment of PKO, Agencies and Programmes. It has also received a massive refugee influx as a spill over of the Syrian conflict that compounds the problem already created by the legacy of previous Palestinian refugee camps and internally displaced populations in protracted displacement in the territory. The specific mandate, structure, and composition of UNIFIL, on the other hand, made it a very interesting case to contrast and compare with the case studies of MINUSTAH and MONUSCO. For example, the density of concentration of UN troops in a small territory, a specific and unique Maritime Task Force, the obligation to assist the Lebanese Government to exercise full authority including the control of its borders if so requested, the obligation to assist in the delivery of a humanitarian mandate by ensuring access to the population and facilitating the safe and voluntary return of displaced people, the high proportion of West European troops subject also to NATO standards, and the merging of the role of Head of Mission and Force Commander.

Two fieldworks were developed in Lebanon (May and October 2014), covering the UNIFIL zone in the South, the Bekaa Valley, and Beirut. The team was composed of Marcela Donadio, Matt Budd, Juan Rial and Carina Perelli. The research team communicated with local and international officials, produced materials and data, and established linkages for the design of a future Lebanon programme. Three specific dissemination reports were produced on:



- The Lebanese history and political context ((www.resdal.org/ing/assets/lebanon-a-remnant.pdf).
- On ISIS (http://www.resdal.org/ing/newsletter/nota-1-isis-parte-1_eng.pdf).
- The question of the military in Lebanon (http://www.resdal.org/ing/assets/Paz_y_Seguridad_01_ing.pdf).
- UNIFIL and SCR 1325 compared to other UN missions (www.resdal.org/The_Women_peace_and_security.pdf).

During this year, and supporting the dissemination of SCR 1325 and the consideration of a gender perspective in the national spheres, RESDAL launched 8 research efforts on national cases: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Guatemala, Peru and Uruguay. The research

was aimed at supporting further implementation of the international framework of women, peace and security, considering Latin American countries not only as troop contributing countries but also as actors in the international community.



A specific website on the subject of women, peace and security was developed, with unique characteristics in the type and amount of information, analysis and tools provided through a dynamic and interactive presentation, and constantly updated. (<http://www.resdal.org/wps/>).

On December 2014 RESDAL held the International Conference **Peace Operations: Views from the South. 15 Years on from Resolution 1325**, in Santiago de Chile. It was the first International Conference linking the security sector to SCR 1325 in support of the UN reviews for 2015, and it was also supported by the Ministry of Defence of Chile.

The Conference aimed to gather impressions from its participants about the future of peacekeeping operations and its relation with the gender situation on the construction of lasting peace, based on these lines:

- What are the key points that set the context of current conflicts?
- What does "peacekeeping" mean today?
- 15 years on from Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security, what are the perspectives on its implementation and what approaches need to be validated?
- What have been the contributions to international security and what are the perspectives?

The countries represented at the Conference provide more than 60% of the troops serving in peacekeeping missions. Participants from Bangladesh, Lebanon and Pakistan joined an interregional debate with participants from 10 Latin American nations, to which also joined representatives from the DPKO and MINUSTAH. (<http://www.resdal.org/ing/assets/resdal-report-conference-chile.pdf>).



Supporting MINUSTAH

Following the effort made in 2013, RESDAL organized in 2014 a public debate requested by the MINUSTAH Head of Mission. The event took place in Buenos Aires at the Canadian Embassy. With the keynote speech given by Mrs. Sandra Honoré (Special Representative of the Secretary-General), the panel brought together different perspectives on the Mission. It included Mr. Roberto De Luise (Deputy Secretary at the Ministry of Defense), Rut Diamint (Professor at University Torcuato di Tella)



and Ernesto López (former Ambassador of Argentina to Haiti). The opening remarks were provided by the Canadian Ambassador, Ms. Gwyneth Kutz, and Andrea Chiappini.

Training

RESDAL conducted specific training in the area, at the request of the following institutions:

- Course on "Women in Peace Operations", pre deployment of the Uruguayan contingent, National School of Peacekeeping Operations of Uruguay (ENOPU).
- Course on "Women in the field of Peace Operations", ENOPU.
- Chiara Oriti Niosi (Program officer of gender and peace operations) remained convened by ENOPU throughout the year. She delivered seven classes on civil protection, child protection, sexual violence in conflict, gender equity, and human rights.
- Conference on Sexual Violence at the Specialized Course Annual International Humanitarian Law, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico.
- "Adoption of a gender perspective into peacekeeping operations" at the Course on Gender in Peacekeeping Operations, CAECOPAZ.

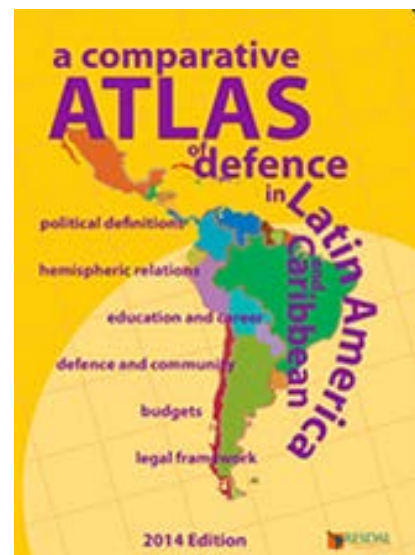
3. Publications

The **Comparative Atlas of Defence in Latin American and Caribbean** (<http://www.resdal.org/ing/atlas-2014.html>) is recognized as the regional data source on the defense sector and has reached different regions in the world. Its sixth edition was published in 2014, both in Spanish and English. In 2008, 2010, 2012 and 2014 the Comparative Atlas has been officially distributed by the organizers of the Conference of Defense Ministers at the inaugural meetings.

The **Comparative Atlas** covers 33 countries: 20 in Latin America, and 13 in the Caribbean.

1,939 people downloaded the publication during the first 7 hours of its launching.

It received **565,888** hits during the first two months.



The 2014 Edition was launched at the XI Conference of Defense Ministers of the Americas (CDMA), Arequipa, Peru.

4. Participation at regional and international events:

- Seminar "Women, Peace and Security in Brazil: Building Bridges and Overcoming Challenges", Igarapé Institute, Brasilia.
- International Seminar "Time to Act: Voices from Latin America. The Eradication of Sexual Violence, including those committed in conflict situations", organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico and the British Embassy at that country.
- "Global Summit to End Sexual Violence Conflict", organized by the British Government at London.
- "Special Session on Beijing +20 in Latin America and the Caribbean"; "51 Meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean", organized by ECLAC, Santiago, Chile.
- International Forum on "Women, Peace and Security: challenges for the advancement of United Nations resolutions in Guatemala", Guatemala - PCS (Project Counselling Service).
- International Forum *The Atlantic Dialogues*, an annual high-level meeting held at Morocco, of public and private sectors to the informal discussion about interregional questions.
- FLACSO-ISA Joint International Conference, where RESDAL organized a roundtable on new topics of defense in Latin America, Buenos Aires.
- Workshop on Haiti's White Paper, Inter-American Defense Board, Washington, DC.
- Workshop "South-American Countries: Experiences on the Formulation of Defence White Papers", Brazilian Ministry of Defence, Rio de Janeiro.
- Workshop "Women's Leadership and Political Empowerment: Progress Review and Ways Forward", USAID, Washington, DC.

5. Supporting New Generations

RESDAL received two young researchers who are members of the *Grupo de Estudios de Política Comparada y Defensa (COPEDE)* at the Sergipe Federal University (Brazil). They developed an internship at RESDAL's Headquarters during two months.

6. Information on Donors

- "Strengthening Institutional and Civilian Capacity in the Security and Defense Sectors", provided by the National Endowment for Democracy (NED).
- "Strengthening Democratic Governance and Transparency in the Security Sector", provided by the Open Society Institute (OSI).
- "Gender Perspective in Peace Operations: Cases and Lessons from Contributing Countries", provided by the Norwegian Agency for Development. (NORAD).
- Defence Engagement Program, Canadian Defence Department.