

Opening remarks



Rosa M. González

Regional Bureau for Sciences in Latin America and the Caribbean, UNESCO Montevideo

Rosa M. Gonzalez is currently UNESCO's Regional Adviser in Communication and Information for Latin America and the Caribbean, based in UNESCO's regional office in Montevideo. She is also the Focal Point for the UN Plan of Action for the Safety of Journalists in the region and Secretary to the Memory of the World Committee in Latin America and the Caribbean (MOWLAC).

From 2014 until 2020, she was the Deputy Secretary of UNESCO's International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC). She was also the UNESCO Communication and Information Adviser for Southeast Asia in 2012-2014 and the UNESCO Communication and Information Adviser for the Andean countries in 2008-2012. She holds a Master's Degree in Communication and has served as a Programme Specialist in the Communication and Information Sector at UNESCO since 1994. She has edited numerous publications on freedom of expression, access to information and media development.

Introduction



Mehdi Benchelah

**Section for Freedom of Expression and Safety of Journalists
UNESCO Headquarters Paris**

Mehdi Benchelah is Senior Project Officer at UNESCO's Freedom of Expression and Safety of Journalists Section. He works on promoting freedom of expression, press freedom and safety of journalist with judges, prosecutors, and law enforcement officials. He also deals with media and election-related issues. Before joining the United Nations, Mehdi worked as a reporter for more than 10 years, focusing on international affairs and conflicts.

Panellists

PANEL 1 - Law enforcement and journalism - Current challenges to preserving freedom of expression and the safety of journalists in Latin America



Prof. Eduardo Bertoni

Instituto Interamericano de Derechos Humanos

Eduardo Bertoni is Alternate Representative of the Regional Office for South America at the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights (IIDH). Former Director of the Agency for Access to Public Information and of the National Directorate for the Protection of Personal Data, Argentina. Founder of the Centre for Studies on Freedom of Expression and Access to Information (CELE) of the Faculty of Law of the University of Palermo. Former Executive Director of the Due Process of Law Foundation (DPLF) until May 2009. Between 2002-2005, Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) at the Organization of American States (OAS).

Eduardo is a lawyer of Argentinean nationality, a graduate of the University of Buenos Aires, a former fellow of the Human Rights Institute at Columbia Law School in New York and the National Endowment for Democracy. He holds a Master's degree in International Politics from George Washington University, and a PhD from the Buenos Aires University. He has taught undergraduate and graduate courses, including "Human Rights & Internet" and "Cyberspace and Crime".



Cristian Taboada

Organization of American States (OAS)

Cristian Gabriel Taboada is a lawyer, graduated from the University of Buenos Aires in Argentina. He has an M.A. degree in International Relations, with a specialization in International Politics and Security, from the Torcuato Di Tella University in Buenos Aires and The Paul Nitze School of Advance International Studies (SAIS) -Johns Hopkins University, in Washington, D.C. After practicing as a lawyer in the city of Buenos Aires, he has worked in the OAS Department of Public Security where he holds the position of Chief of the Security and Justice Section, since 2014.



Zuliana Lainez Otero

Federación de Periodistas de América Latina y el Caribe (FEPALC)

Zuliana Lainez Otero studied journalism at the Jaime Bausate y Meza University in Peru. She currently holds the position of vice-president of the International Federation of Journalists. She also serves as the president of the Federation of Journalists of Latin America and the Caribbean (FEPALC) and opinion editor of the digital newspaper Crónica Viva. Zuliana has been the head of news at the daily newspaper, Liberación, and news producer at Radio Santa Rosa in Lima, Peru. She has also worked as a university lecturer specializing in information law, journalist safety and freedom of expression.



Brigadier General Luis Ernesto García Hernández

National Police of Colombia

Brigadier General of the National Police of Colombia is an analyst, researcher, and specialist in public security with emphasis on police management. He has extensive experience and knowledge in strategic prospective intelligence, police professionalization and development, public management, police management and policing models, currently serving as head of the Planning Office of the National Police.

During more than 30 years of service he has developed his professional life in areas such as Public Management, Education, International Cooperation, Criminal Investigation, Intelligence and Police Surveillance, which has allowed him to make important contributions to the police institution and to the construction of the country. He has actively participated in the development of police cooperation programs at a regional level with important institutions such as the World Bank, OAS and the Inter-American Development Bank.

He has participated in the reconfiguration of the Territorial Management Model for Citizen Security, renewing management instruments, and updating tools for orientation and coordination with political-administrative authorities. Further, he led the Modernization of Police Intelligence and configuration of the operational intelligence model for citizen security and the police service.

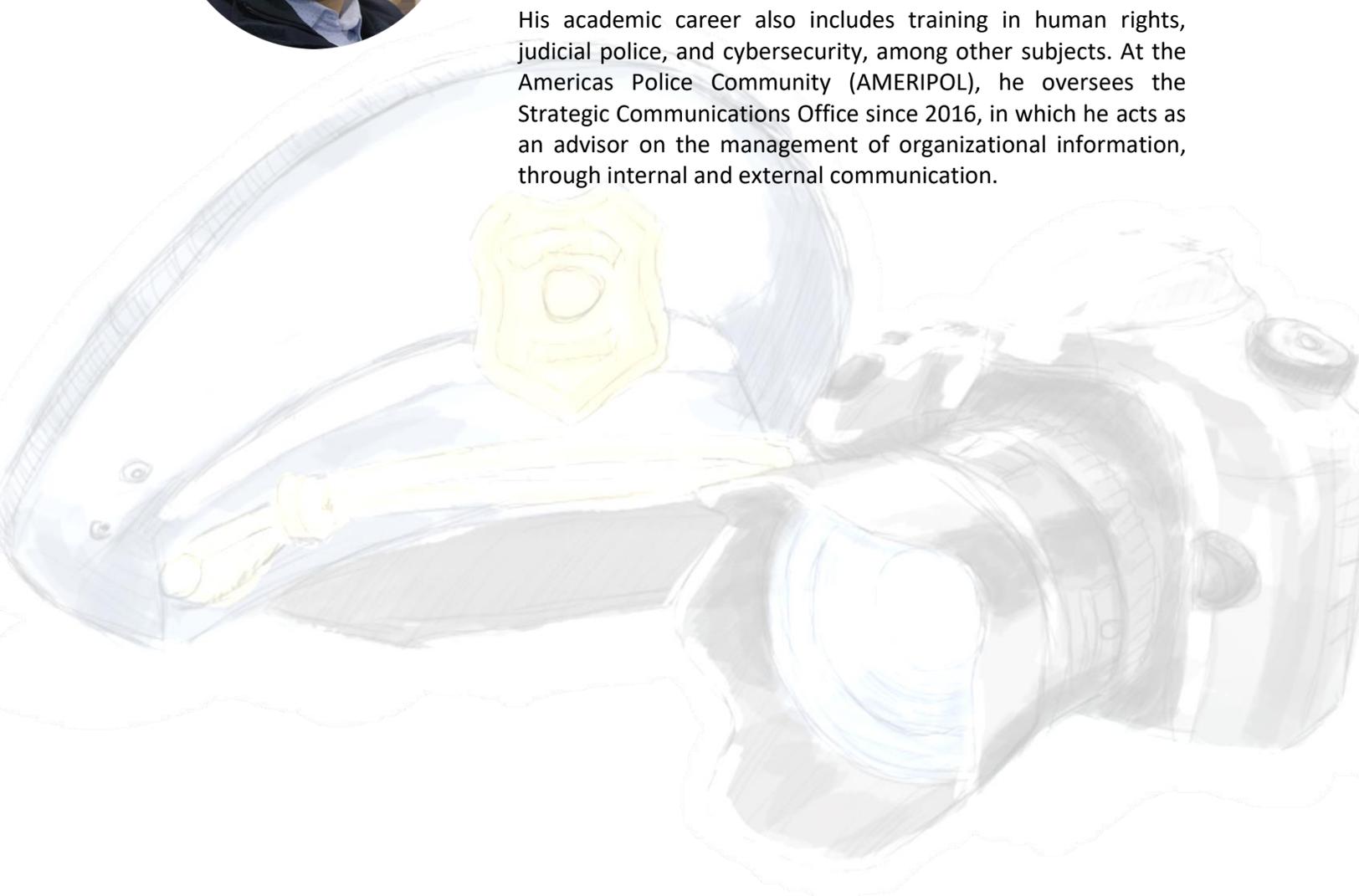
As Director of the Postgraduate School of the National Police, he promoted the process of reform and transformation of police education, focusing on the development of the profession through professional programs, standing out as a consultant and researcher on issues related to police education.



Oscar Javier Sosa Barrero

Executive Secretariat of the Police Community of the Americas (AMERIPOL)

Oscar Javier Sosa Barrero is a social communicator and journalist who graduated from the University of Tolima, Colombia. He has completed further studies in organizational communication. He has been a member of the Colombian National Police since 2014. His academic career also includes training in human rights, judicial police, and cybersecurity, among other subjects. At the Americas Police Community (AMERIPOL), he oversees the Strategic Communications Office since 2016, in which he acts as an advisor on the management of organizational information, through internal and external communication.



PANEL 2 - Perspectives for a new relationship between law enforcement and the media



Martha C. Ramos Sosa

Organización Editorial Mexicana (OEM), Mexico

Martha C. Ramos Sosa is a trained journalist and National Editorial Director at Organización Editorial Mexicana (OEM), a network comprising 45 newspapers and journalistic portals. Martha Ramos is convinced that the media have an ethical and formative commitment to guarantee a democratic and participatory society. For Ms. Ramos, equality, verification, and language are at the heart of her work.



João Mário Nunes de Goes

Paraná Civil Police (PCPR), Brazil

João Mário Nunes de Goes graduated in Journalism in 2006 from the University Centre of Maringá (Unicesumar). In 2017, he received his postgraduate degree in Security Intelligence from the University of the South of Santa Catarina (Unisul). He began his career as a journalist in Brazil in 2003, working in print media, government agencies and digital media. In 2010, he was awarded the title of police officer of the Civil Police of Paraná (PCPR) and served in the Maringá Branch of the PCPR from 2011 to 2014. Mr. Nunes de Góes worked in the Intelligence Agency from 2014 to 2018, and in the State Narcotics Division in 2018.

Since January 2019, he is the coordinator of the PCPR Press Office and the PCPR Community Relations Office. Currently, he is also a professor of the subject of Communication and Media for the Postgraduate Course in Criminal Sciences of the Judicial Police, at the School of the PCPR. Mr. Nunes de Góes is also the creator of the Press Orientation Course for Acting in Armed Conflict Zones.



Brigadier General Yackeline Navarro Ordoñez

Executive Directorate of the Police Education Internalization Network (RINEP) / National Police of Colombia

Brigadier General Yackeline Navarro Ordoñez began her professional career as a police administrator in 1992, after graduating from the "General Francisco de Paula Santander" Police Cadet School. She has held different positions and functions in departments such as Atlántico, Meta, Antioquia, and cities such as Medellín and Bogotá, which has allowed her to learn about the problems of each region and thus identify opportunities to strengthen the police service and optimise institutional capacities.

Thanks to his leadership and academic training, he has promoted important projects at the "Gonzalo Jiménez de Quesada" School for Non-Commissioned Officers and Executive Level, the "Miguel Antonio Lleras Pizarro" School of Higher Police Studies, the "IT. Maritza Bonilla Ruiz", the Criminal Investigation School "TC. Elkin Molina Aldana", and in her time at the Police Cadet School "General Francisco de Paula Santander", as company commander and later as deputy director, all framed in one of the main institutional values, discipline.

She currently serves as National Director of Schools contributing to the educational transformation in favour of the police service for the construction of the country, likewise, she assumed the Executive Directorate of the Network of Police Educational Internationalization (RINEP), from where educational internationalization activities are promoted between the police education systems and counterparts in security, generating international and inter-institutional academic cooperation projects, in order to allow the quality assurance of these organizations, contributing to the prospective of coexistence and citizen security of each member country.



Kriscia Rodríguez

International Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA San Salvador) - Ministry of Justice and Public Security of El Salvador

Kriscia Rodríguez graduated with a degree in Social Communication from the Universidad Centroamericana José Simeón Cañas (UCA), and recently completed a master's in strategic communication management, also from the UCA. Kriscia has a specialisation in different courses, and diplomas in topics including communications, diplomatic protocol, women's rights and gender perspectives, political marketing, social media management and relations between the media and law enforcement.

Her work experience has been mainly in organizational communication and audio-visual production. She currently works as Communications and Protocol Coordinator at the International Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA San Salvador) - Ministry of Justice and Public Security of El Salvador.



André Leclerc

Montreal Police Service (SPVM), Canada

André Leclerc is a former police officer, now retired. He worked for 30 years with the Montreal Police Service (SPVM). He served as Media Relations Officer and spokesperson for seven years, which led him to work with local, national, and international journalists on a daily basis. In his career, he has served the UN mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) three times as a UN police spokesperson (2008-2010) and as a training officer for Haitian police officers in the field (2016). André was shot in 2001 in the line of duty during a foot patrol in downtown Montreal. After being seriously wounded, he returned and worked for the SPVM management at the headquarters.



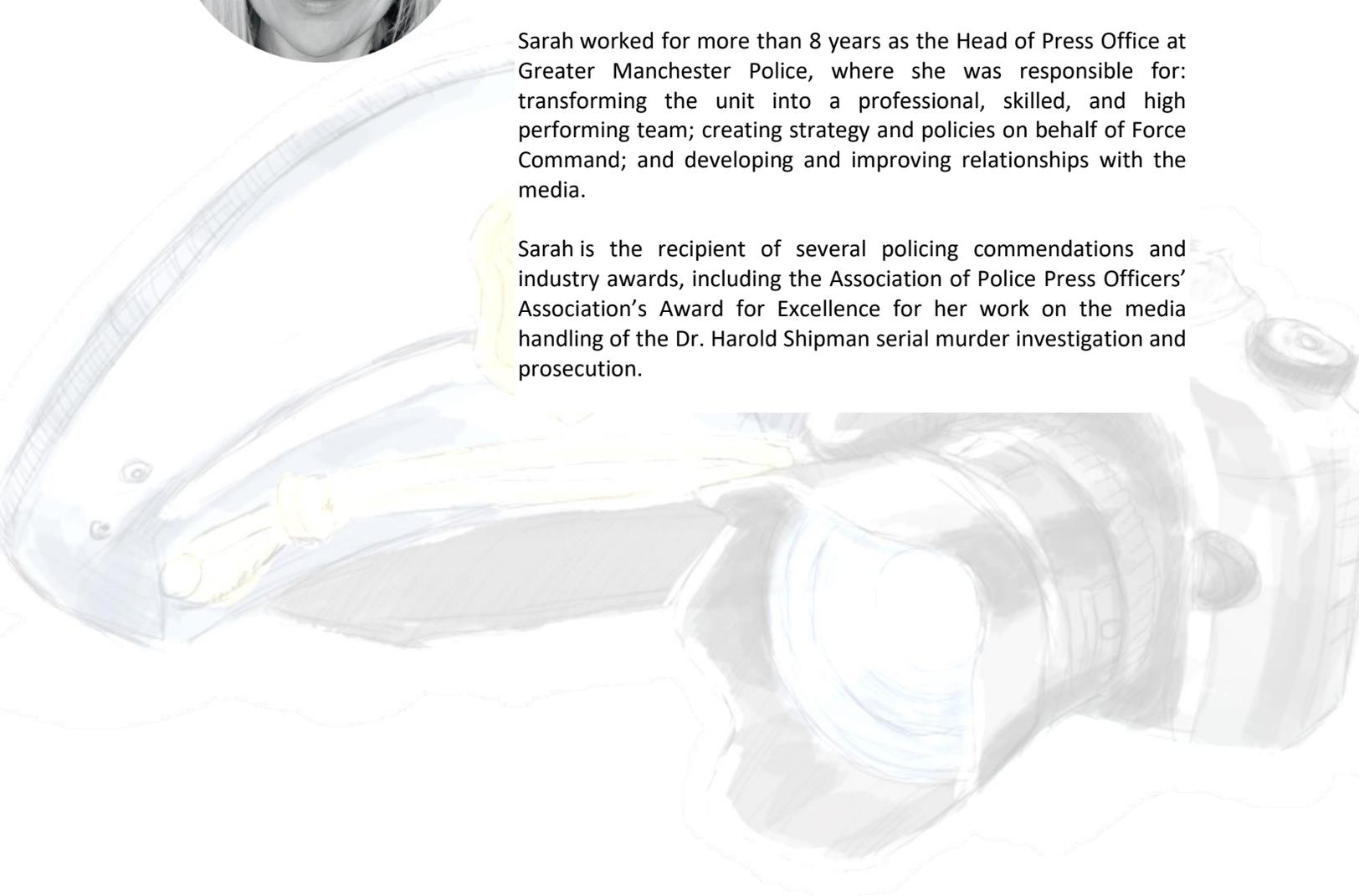
Sarah Dean Kelly

Communication consultant

Sarah Dean Kelly is a former journalist and award-winning communications consultant with more than 20 years' hands-on experience in public and private sectors. Sarah has significant experience across a variety of sectors, including law enforcement; government; and criminal justice development.

Sarah worked for more than 8 years as the Head of Press Office at Greater Manchester Police, where she was responsible for: transforming the unit into a professional, skilled, and high performing team; creating strategy and policies on behalf of Force Command; and developing and improving relationships with the media.

Sarah is the recipient of several policing commendations and industry awards, including the Association of Police Press Officers' Association's Award for Excellence for her work on the media handling of the Dr. Harold Shipman serial murder investigation and prosecution.



Moderators



Amada Ponce

C-Libre (Honduras), on behalf of Alianza Regional por la Libre Expresión e Información

Amada Ponce is a journalist with 20 years of experience in digital journalism, social research, project design, communication products and the development of educational materials. She is also a human rights defender and an active member of civil society pro-rights organizations.

Amanda is the Executive Director of the Committee for Free Expression (C-Libre) in Honduras, an organization in which she has worked for more than ten years in defence of the right to freedom of expression, from where she has promoted protection networks for journalists at the national level, the ethical exercise of the profession and the struggle for the elimination of obstacles that affect this right.



Adriana León

Instituto Prensa y Sociedad (IPYS)

Adriana León is a journalist and Director of the freedom of information area of the Instituto Prensa y Sociedad (IPYS), Peru. Since 2005, Adriana has worked as a stringer in Peru for the Los Angeles Times and as a freelance journalist for media outlets such as Insight Crime, covering current political affairs, organized crime, and social conflict.

Concluding remarks



Prof. Ignacio Cano

Rio de Janeiro State University / México Evalúa

Ignacio Cano did his PhD in sociology with a specialization in social psychology at the Complutense University of Madrid in 1991. He worked on human rights and attention to populations in war zones in El Salvador from 1991 to 1993; as a researcher at the Universidad Centroamericana; and as a member of the United Nations Truth Commission for El Salvador. He also participated in human rights research projects in Guatemala and other countries in the region.

Since 1996, Ignacio has worked in Brazil on the themes of violence, public security and human rights and education. He is a Professor of Sociology at the State University of Rio de Janeiro and is a founding member of the Laboratory for the Analysis of Violence (LAV) at the University. In recent years, he has worked as a researcher, consultant and evaluator for numerous public security and human rights projects in Brazil and in several Latin American countries. In 2020, he was a research associate at the Safety Lab and the African Police Civilian Oversight Forum (APCOF) in Cape Town, South Africa. Since 2021, he has also been an associate expert at México Evalúa in Mexico City.