

Orlando Gonzalez Gil



Orlando Gonzalez Gil is a human rights defender and Colombian lawyer. He graduated from the Military University New Granada in Bogota, Colombia, specializing in Administrative Law and Pedagogy of Ecological Recreation.

Born on April 10, 1960 to a rural farm family in Villahermosa, Tolima ,Orlando lived his early years in the countryside with such values as love, work, honesty, simplicity and help for the needy. At age 7, he went to the only public school in town. He attended high school at the Superior Normal School in Villahermosa. As a teenager he stood out as a youth leader taking part social groups. He also taught literacy to prisoners in jail and collected food for needed families. He graduated from Fabio Lozano Torrijos High School in Falan, Tolima, with a Master Degree. He taught rural children primary education at El Triunfo School in Villahermosa, Tolima, encouraging sports among farmers and residents in the rural areas and technological education for children. He also promoted the creation of electric power through coffee pulp and taught elementary school children experimental electrolysis of water.

Orlando left his hometown to find new opportunities in the capital city of Colombia, Bogota. There he attended the Engineering Department at the National University of Colombia. He lived at the university campus residences until it was finally closed in 1984. There were more than 50 missing young people not recognized in the final stage of the status of national security. In 1992 Orlando graduated with a Bachelor degree in Electronics at the National Pedagogic University. While studying at the University, he won a nationwide contest to teach and in 1987 was registered as a teacher in the Ministry of Education of the District of Bogotá. During his career as an educator, Orlando was part of technical research teams with innovative educational experiences in adult education and participated for five years in educational programs for low-income families and individuals with special needs suffering from quadriplegia, paraplegia,

blindness, hearing loss and other disabilities. These programs ended and he returned to teach in regular classroom as a technology teacher. Since 1992 he has worked in private education as a mathematics teacher at the prestigious Augustinian North School of Bogota in the mornings and in the afternoons he worked in public education. He was a director of the newspaper "Alternativas" in Villahermosa Tolima. Orlando never lost his provincial roots. In 1994 he joined the Nueva Granada Military University to study law and completed his studies in 1999, becoming a lawyer in 2002. In 2000 he participated in a contest of merits to choose rectors and he was selected. However, once appointed as rector he declined to position and preferred to continue as a classroom teacher to date. In 2005 he attended post-graduate studies in Administrative Law at the Nueva Granada Military University in Bogota. He also studied other specialized courses in Pedagogy of Ecological Recreation in 2009.

In 2013 Orlando stopped teaching mathematics and began working as an advisor for private schools due to his great experience in the Colombian education field. In the year 2012 he became co-founder of the registered company ORGANIZACION NUEVA ENERGIA ONE (www.onenergia.com.co) with global projection with efforts to mitigate global warming and to design and build generators of clean, free, electricity-powered scale, purification and ionization of water without chemicals, wastewater treatment to turn it into drinkable water and the recovery of rivers. They have prototypes of electronic appliances saving 60% of electricity and the research and design of electronic applications for the management of solid waste and the reuse of debris and used tires among others.

Orlando joined the Canadian Human Rights International Organization (CHRIO) in 2011. He is a valuable and dedicated defender of human rights around the world and part of our team helping victims and people in need during his spare time. He is also a volunteer at the Collective Human Rights Defender "Laura Acosta" International Organization (COHURIDELA).

As a human rights defender, Orlando has promoted human rights campaigns through CHRIO at international levels such as the massacres in Mexico, Pakistan, as well as in his native Colombia.

Currently Orlando belongs to a movement called "Indignados" in Colombia. Due to the backward state of Villahermosa, his hometown, he has outlined proposals for the development of viable projects committed to the management of natural resources and the improvement of the quality of life of people living in rural areas; in the land he was born. Orlando has also joined other leaders to create a citizen oversight due to the absence of transparency in the management of public resources. He seeks international assistance to find resources to support less fortunate communities.