



**CORTE INTERAMERICANA DE DERECHOS HUMANOS  
COUR INTERAMERICAINE DES DROITS DE L'HOMME  
CORTE INTERAMERICANA DE DIREITOS HUMANOS  
INTER-AMERICAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS**



**I/A COURT of H.R.\_CP-07/11 ENGLISH**

**PRESS RELEASE<sup>(\*)</sup>**

*San José, Costa Rica, August 15, 2011.-* The Inter-American Court of Human Rights holds, in the city of Bogotá, Colombia, its 92 Regular Period of Sessions from August 22 to September 2, 2011. At said time, four public hearings will be held, two on contentious cases and two on provisional measures. An international seminar will also be carried out on the strengthening of protection of human rights, by way of jurisprudential dialogue.

The hearings and the international seminar will be open to the public. If one is interested in assisting these events, please go to <http://www.corteidh.or.cr/colombia/formulario.html> and complete the form. Likewise, all of the hearings will be transmitted live at the following link: [www.corteidh.or.cr](http://www.corteidh.or.cr)

The composition of the Court for this period of sessions is the following: Diego García-Sayán (Perú), President; Manuel E. Ventura Robles (Costa Rica); Margarette May Macaulay (Jamaica); Rhadys Abreu Blondet (Dominican Republic); Alberto Pérez Pérez (Uruguay); Eduardo Vio Grossi (Chile). Judge Leonardo A. Franco (Argentina), will not participate in this period of sessions for reasons of force majeure.

**1. Public hearings on contentious cases**

**a. Case of Karen Atala and daughters V. Chile.** As of 9:00am on August 23 and 24, 2011, the Court will hear statements from the alleged victims and five expert witnesses, two proposed by the representatives of the alleged victims, and five proposed by the Inter-American Commission. Likewise, the Court will hear the final arguments of the representatives of the alleged victims and the Republic of Chile, as well as the final comments of the Inter-American Commission. The Judge Eduardo Vio Grossi, due to his nationality, will not participate in the matter.

*Background*

On September 17, 2010, The Inter-American Commission submitted this case against the Republic of Chile for the alleged discriminatory treatment and arbitrary interference in the private and family life of Mrs. Atala, due to her sexual orientation, in the judicial proceeding that resulted in the removal of her daughters from her custody and care. Moreover, the Commission argued the alleged nonobservance of the

<sup>(\*)</sup> The content of this communication is of the responsibility of the Secretariat of the Inter-American Court. The official text of the documents being mentioned may be obtained per request addressed to the Secretariat, at the attached address.

best interest of Mrs. Atala's daughters, whose custody and care were determined in violation of her rights and based on alleged discriminatory prejudice.

**b. Case of Fontevecchia and D'Amico V. Argentina.** As of 3:00pm on August 24, 2011 and 9:00am on August 25, 2011, the Court will hear the declarations of the two alleged victims and one expert witness offered *ex-officio* by the President of the Court. Moreover, the Court will hear the final arguments of the representatives of the alleged victims and the Republic of Argentina, as well as the final comments of the Inter-American Commission.

#### *Background*

On December 10, 2010, the Inter-American Commission submitted this case for the alleged violation of the right to freedom of thought and expression of Mr. Jorge Fontevecchia and Mr. Hector D'Amico, whom, as director and editor of the magazine *Noticias*, respectively, published two articles in which they put in the public eye the existence of an unacknowledged son of the then President of the Nation, Carlos Saúl Menem, with a national member of parliament; the relationship of then President and said member of parliament; and the relationship between the President and his son. As a consequence of the mentioned publication, Mr. Menem had filed a civil suit against the alleged victims for, *inter alia*, arbitrary and illegitimate intrusions to his private life. The Supreme Court of Justice declared that the civil suit filed by Mr. Menem was founded, given that his right to private life had been violated.

## **2. Public hearings on provisional measures**

**a. Matter of Urso Branco Prison regarding Brazil.** As of 3:00pm on August 25, 2011, the Court will hear the Federal Republic of Brazil, the representatives of the beneficiaries of the provisional measures, and the Inter-American Commission, in order to receive information and comments on the implementation of the measures ordered by the Court, and the possible need to maintain these measures in force.

#### *Background*

The provisional measures in the Matter of the Urso Branco Prison were adopted by the Court on [June 18, 2002](#) and refer to the protection of the life and integrity of all the prisoners at said center, as well as to all the persons that enter said facility, among them, the visitors and security agents. In its last Order on the matter, on [November 25, 2009](#), the Court reiterated to the State about the need to continue adopting the necessary measures to protect the life and integrity of the beneficiaries and to carry out the relevant steps so that the measures of protection are planned and implemented with the participation of the representatives.

**b. Matter of the Socio-educational Internment Unit (UNIS) regarding Brazil.** As of 5:15pm on August 25, 2011, the Court will hear the Federal Republic of Brazil, the representatives of the beneficiaries of the present provisional measures, and the Inter-American Commission, in order to receive information and comments on the implementation of the measures ordered by the Court, and on the possible need to maintain the measures in force.

#### *Background*

On December 30, 2010, the Inter-American Commission presented to the Court a request for provisional measures in order for the Federal Republic of Brazil to protect the life and personal integrity of the children and adolescents deprived of liberty and of the other persons found at the Socio-educational Internment Unit, located in the municipality of Cariacica, State of Espírito Santo. On **February 25, 2011**, the Court issued an Order, wherein it required the State to adopt, immediately, all of the measures necessary to effectively protect the life and personal integrity of the above mentioned persons. Moreover, the Court ordered the State to guarantee that the disciplinary regimen be guided by international norms on the matter. The present provisional measures are in force until **September 30, 2011**.

### 3. Analysis of Judgments

**a. Case of Torres et al. V. Argentina.** On August 26, 2011, the Court deliberated and analyzed the possibility of dictating a Judgment on the possible merits and reparations.

#### *Background*

On April 18, 2010, the Inter-American Commission submitted this case against the Republic of Argentina for the alleged arbitrary detention, torture, and enforced disappearance of Iván Eladio Torres, which occurred as of October 2, 2003, in the city of Comodoro Rivadavia, Province of Chubut, and the subsequent failure to carry out an investigation of the facts with due diligence, as well as the denial of justice to the detriment of the next of kin.

**b. Case of Contreras et al. V. El Salvador.** On August 29, 2011, the Court will deliberate and analyze the possibility of dictating a Judgment on the possible merits and reparations.

#### *Background*

On June 28, 2010, the Inter-American Commission submitted a case against the Republic of El Salvador given that the State had allegedly incurred international responsibility for the enforced disappearances of the children Gregoria Herminia, Serapio Cristian and Julia Inés Contreras, Ana Julia and Carmelina Mejía Ramírez and José Rubén Rivera between 1981 and 1983 by members of different military corps that carried out counter-insurgent operations in the context of the armed conflict in the country during those years.

**c. Case of Salvador Chiriboga V. Ecuador.** On August 29, 2011, the Court deliberated and analyzed the possibility of dictating an interpretation of the Judgment on costs and reparations in this case.

#### *Background*

On May 6, 2008, the Inter-American Court, by means of its Judgment on preliminary objections and merits, deemed the international responsibility of the State of Ecuador for the violation of Article 21(1), in relation with Articles 8(1) and 25(1) of the American Convention, to the detriment of Salvador Chiriboga. On March 3, 2011, the Court rendered a Judgment on reparations and costs, wherein pursuant to the standards on reasonability, proportionality, and equity, it fixed an amount for compensation at the international seat, that which included the amount of the expropriated property and its accessories, and it also ordered comprehensive measures of reparation. On June 2, 2011, the State presented a petition for interpretation of the Judgment on: a) the state of the proceedings carried out in the domestic forum in relation to the ruling by the Inter-American Court, and b) the maintenance of the compensatory amount determined in the judgment of the Court.

In application of that stipulated in Article 54 of the American Convention on Human Rights, in this case, the composition of the Court is that which it held at the time the judgment on the merits was rendered, thereby including *ad hoc* Judge Diego Rodríguez-Pinzón.

**d. Case of Grande V. Argentina.** On August 30, 2011, the Court deliberated and analyzed the possibility of dictating a Judgment on the preliminary objections, and possible merits and reparations.

#### *Background*

On May 4, 2010, the Inter-American Commission presented a case against the Republic of Argentina for allegedly submitting Jorge Fernando Grande, alleged victim, to a criminal proceeding carried out with irregularities and with undue delays, which was based on evidence later deemed null, and for not offering him the appropriate remedies to restitute him for the harm and detriment he experienced during the mentioned criminal proceeding.

**e. Case of López Mendoza V. Venezuela.** On August 31, 2011, the Court deliberated and analyzed the possibility of dictating a Judgment on possible merits and reparations.

#### *Background*

The facts of this case are related to the alleged international responsibility for disabling the administrative means of Mr. López Mendoza regarding the exercise of the public duty in contravention with the standards of the Convention, as well as the alleged violation of various judicial guarantees.

#### **4. Academic activities**

On August 29, 30, and 31, in the Gimnasio Moderno [Modern Gymnasium] the International Seminar "*Experiencias comparadas: fortaleciendo la protección de los derechos humanos, a través del diálogo jurisprudencial*" [Comparative Experiences: strengthening the protection of human rights, by means of jurisprudential dialogue], which will be given by international experts on each of the topics discussed. For more information, please go to the following link: <http://www.corteidh.or.cr/colombia/seminarios.html>

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For more information, please go to website of the Inter-American Court at <http://corteidh.or.cr/index.cfm> or send an email addressed to Pablo Saavedra Alessandri, Secretary, at [corteidh@corteidh.or.cr](mailto:corteidh@corteidh.or.cr).