

Summonses

Inter-American Court of Human Rights

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“OUR JOINT OBJECTIVE IS THE COMPLETE VALIDITY OF HUMAN RIGHTS, DEMOCRACY, AND THE RULE OF LAW” JUDGE EDUARDO FERRER MAC-GREGOR IN THE INAUGURATION OF THE 125th PERIOD OF REGULAR SESSIONS.

San José, Costa Rica, 17 July 2018- Yesterday began the 125th Period of Regular Session, which is dedicated to the commemoration of the 40th Anniversary of the entry into force of the American Convention on Human Rights and the Creation of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights.

I. Opening Ceremony of the “40th Anniversary of the Entry into Force of the American Convention on Human Rights and the Creation of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights”.

Yesterday afternoon, 16 July 2018, the inauguration ceremony of the 40th Anniversary of the entry into force of the American Convention on Human Rights and the Creation of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights was celebrated. This inaugural act included words by Judge Eduardo Ferrer Mac-Gregor, President of the Court, and his Excellency Mr. Carlos Alvarado Quesada, President of the Republic of Costa Rica, as well as a keynote address given by his Excellency Mr. António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations.

The President of the Inter-American Court, Judge Eduardo Ferrer Mac-Gregor, emphasized that the “40th Anniversary” celebration constitutes an “extraordinary and unprecedented force to encourage and promote the necessary multilateral dialogue with United Nations organs and regional human rights tribunals, authorities and high national jurisdictions of the American continent, and civil society.” Similarly, in regards to the series of events that will take place over the course of this week, the President of the Court highlighted that it is the first time that the three regional human rights courts of the world – the African Court, the European Court, and the Inter-American Court – “will have the opportunity to share their experiences, points of view, and objectives regarding the successes and challenges of the present and future,” and announced that, as a product of this dialogue, on July 18 the first joint declaration between the regional human rights tribunals will be signed publicly. In a similar manner, the President mentioned that today two agreements were signed with the Fidélitas University and the Universidad La Salle of Costa Rica, respectively.

For his part, the President of the Republic of Costa Rica, Carlos Alvarado, celebrated the Court and the ACHR for their 40 years. In addition, he highlighted the jurisprudential dialogue between the Court and internal tribunals, emphasizing as well the *control de convencionalidad* doctrine, which we should strengthen. Similarly, Alvarado considered the presence of the UN Secretary-General and regional human rights courts to be evidence of “clear support of the highest level” of the institutions of the Inter-American System for the Protection of Human Rights.

After the President spoke, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, António Guterres, gave a keynote address. During the speech he stressed the “indispensable character of human rights” which “should not be taken for granted.” The Secretary-General praised the work of the Court thus far, affirming that it, along with the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights, have contributed “in a considerable way to the wave of democratization on the continent.” In addition, Guterres recognized the Court as an institution that provides moral leadership and that acts to eliminate human rights violations and punish those who perpetuate them, charging it to remain vigilant and dedicated to “protecting and promoting human rights in the entire American continent.”

II. Description of the week of events

A. Tuesday, July 17 – Dialogue between Regional Human Rights Courts

Today, Tuesday, July 17, an unprecedented event is taking place in which the highest representatives of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, the African Court of Human and People’s Rights, the European Court of Human Rights, and academics of renowned professional caliber will all take part. The event will take the form of a private working session that seeks to fortify dialogue and cooperation between the three regional human rights courts.

B. Wednesday and Thursday, July 17 and 18, Seminar on “Successes and Challenges in the Regional Human Rights Systems”

On July 18 and 19 the Inter-American Court will hold a public international seminar that will include participation by the judges of the world’s three regional courts, former judges of the Inter-American Court, high state authorities from many parts of the American continent, widely renowned academics, and civil society representatives. This event will be a Forum that will allow joint reflection from all key actors on the past, present, and future of the universal human rights protection systems.

The seminar will include multiple panels and will take place on **Wednesday, July 18**, at the **National Theatre of Costa Rica**, and **Thursday, July 19**, at the Large Lecture Hall (**Sala Magna**) of the **University of Costa Rica**. (Nota bene: the events of 19 July were initially programmed to take place at the headquarters of the Court. However, due to the success of the convocation, the location has been changed to the Large Lecture Hall (Sala Magna) of the University of Costa Rica).

A detailed program of events can be found at the following link:
<http://www.corteidh.or.cr/40aniversario/informacion/Program.pdf>


The international seminar will be broadcast live from the Court's website:
<http://www.corteidh.or.cr/>

All official photos of the events can be found at the following link:
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/corteidh/albums>

This release was produced by the Secretariat of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, which has the sole responsibility to do so.

For the latest information please visit the website of the Inter-American Court, <http://corteidh.or.cr/en>, or send an email to Pablo Saavedra Alessandri, Secretary, at corteidh@corteidh.or.cr. For press inquiries please contact Marta Cabrera Martín at prensa@corteidh.or.cr.

You can sign up for updates from the court at <http://www.corteidh.or.cr/index.php/en/court-today/servicios-de-informacion>. You can also follow the activities of the Court on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

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