

# Press Release

Inter-American Court of Human Rights

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## INTER-AMERICAN COURT HELD ITS 127TH PERIOD OF REGULAR SESSIONS

*San José, Costa Rica, September 28 2018* - The Inter-American Court held its 127<sup>th</sup> Period of Regular Sessions from September 24-28 in San José, Costa Rica.

### I. Public Hearings

The Court held the following public hearings:

a) Matter of the Inhabitants of the Miskitu Indigenous Peoples Communities of the North Caribbean Coastal Region with regard to Nicaragua

During this hearing, the State informed the Court, in a complete and detailed manner, on the implementation of each of the measures required by the Court, through its orders, which must accompany the diagnosis on the current risk situation of the beneficiaries of the present provisional measures. In addition, the Court listened to the observations of the representatives of the beneficiaries of said provisional measures and the opinion of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.

b) Case of Colindres Schonenberg v. El Salvador

This case relates to the removal of Eduardo Benjamín Colindres Schonenberg from his post as a justice of the Supreme Electoral Tribunal by the Legislative Assembly on March 17, 1998, which presumably violated numerous guarantees of due process, including the right to a competent judge, the guarantee of impartiality, and the principle of legality.

All videos of the public hearings will be available in the [Multimedia Gallery](#).

### II. Judgments

The Inter-American Court issued the following judgments, which will be notified soon and will be available [here](#):

a) *Case of Terrones Silva et al. v. Peru*

This case relates to the presumed enforced disappearance of Wilfreda Terrones Silva (since 26 August 1992), Teresa Díaz Aparicio (since 19 August 1992), Santiago Antezana Cueto (since 7 May 1984), Néstor Rojas Medina (since 26 January 1991) and Cory Clodolia Tenicela Tello (since 2 October 1992). It is alleged that the facts took place in the context of a presumed systematic and generalized practice of enforced disappearance during the Peruvian State's fight against

terrorism. To date, there is no information on the whereabouts or fate of any of the victims. You can learn more about the case [here](#) (in Spanish).

b) *Case of Escaleras Mejía et al v. Honduras*

This case relates to the presumed international responsibility of the State of Honduras for the death of the environmentalist Carlos Escaleras Mejía on 18 October 1997, and the alleged situation of partial impunity concerning this fact. The Commission concluded that the State had not provided an effective judicial response to the death of Mr. Escaleras Mejía because the police, prosecutors and judicial authorities had not implemented the minimum basic procedures in keeping with the Inter-American standards concerning this type of cases. The Commission also concluded that the State had failed to obtain evidence in order to implement, seriously and exhaustively, basic lines of investigation that would respond to the indications linking at least three state authorities to the act which were evident from the start. In addition, the Commission noted that all the possible intellectual perpetrators had not been investigated and that, during the investigation, egregious acts of possible reprisal and pressure had occurred involving individuals who took part in the investigations and, despite this, no investigation into such facts was carried out. The Commission concluded that the current elapsed time since Mr. Escaleras Mejía's death (17 years) constituted a violation of the guarantee of the reasonable time. It also indicated that all the above factors formed part of a more general situation related to the high rates of impunity of criminal acts perpetrated against environmentalists. You can learn more about the case [here](#) (in Spanish).

c) *Case of López Soto et al. v. Venezuela*

This case concerns the alleged international responsibility of the State of Venezuela for the presumed serious violations of the rights to personal integrity, personal liberty, privacy, dignity and autonomy, and to live without violence or discrimination suffered by Linda Loaiza López Soto, who was 19 years of age at the time, between 27 March and 19 July 2001. It is alleged that she was deprived of liberty against her will and that she was the victim of gross acts of violence for almost four months, supposedly including mutilations, severe physical injuries, and psychological violence committed with great cruelty, as well as repeated forms of sexual abuse and rape, all of which had had a deep and irreversible impact on her life. The Commission argued that this violence was presumably based on the victim's condition as a woman and, therefore, it constituted gender-based violence. It is argued that the Venezuelan State was or should have been aware of the situation of real and imminent danger in which this young woman found herself, in view of the repeated attempts of her sister to file the report of her disappearance and that, despite this, it had failed to take any measure to protect her from this danger and to avoid its materialization. In addition, it is alleged that the State had failed to comply with its obligation to investigate within a reasonable time and that the presumed victim did not have access to justice in equal conditions. You can learn more about the case [here](#) (in Spanish).

### **III. Supervision of compliance with judgments**

The Inter-American Court issued the following resolutions on monitoring compliance with judgment which will be notified soon and will be available [here](#):

- *Case of Gutiérrez Hernández et al. v. Guatemala*
- *Case of Pollo Rivera et al. and Lagos del Campo v. Peru* (joint resolution)
- *Case of Dismissed Employees of PetroPeru et al. v. Peru*
- *Case of the Saramaka People v. Suriname*

### **IV. Provisional Measures**

The Inter-American Court issued the following resolution on provisional measures which will be notified soon and will be available [here](#):

- *Matter of Meléndez Quijano et al., with regard to El Salvador*

## V. Cooperation agreements

### *Cooperation agreement with the "Universidad Autónoma de Centro América (UACA)"*

On September 26 the President of the Inter-American Court, Judge Eduardo Ferrer Mac-Gregor, the Vicepresident, Judge Eduardo Vio Grossi and the Rector of the Universidad Autónoma de Centro América (UACA), Guillermo Malavassi signed a cooperation agreement. With the signing of this agreement, both institutions are committed to coordinate efforts to strengthen their relations, knowledge of the law and disseminate international instruments for the promotion and defense of Human Rights.



## VI. Pending issues and administrative matters

In a similar manner, the Inter-American Court supervised different issues, such as the processing of cases under its jurisdiction and analyzed administrative matters.

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The composition of the Court for this period of regular sessions was included the following: Judge Eduardo Ferrer Mac-Gregor Poisot, President (Mexico); Judge Eduardo Vio Grossi, Vice-President (Chile); Judge Humberto Antonio Sierra Porto (Colombia); Judge Eugenio Raúl Zaffaroni (Argentina); and Judge Patricio Pazmiño Freire (Ecuador). The Judge Elizabeth Odio Benito (Costa Rica); did not participated in this period of sessions.

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

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