

Press Release

Inter-American Court of Human Rights

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PERU IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCE OF WALTER MUNÁRRIZ ESCOBAR

San José, Costa Rica, 1 October 2018.- In the judgment published today in the Case *Munárriz Escobar et al v. Peru* the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (the Court) declared that Peru is responsible for the enforced disappearance of Walter Munárriz Escobar. The entire text of the judgment can be found at the following [link](#) (in Spanish)

On 20 March 1999 at approximately at 04:00 am, Walter Munárriz Escobar went to the “Los Manolos” hostel to pay a visit to a guest of the hostel. Mr. Munárriz entered into a room of one of the guests and into another room where the wife of an Officer of the National Police of Peru was staying. The woman lodged a complaint with the Police concerning this incident. Mr. Munárriz was taken to the Lircay police station. His detention was not registered. Approximately at 04:30 am of that same day, Mr. Munárriz was detained in the police station and there were no “evidence that he had been beaten or assaulted”. This was the last time that Mr. Munárriz was seen. He was 19 years old when the disappearance began.

The relatives of Mr. Munárriz took several actions to find him. The public prosecutor initiated a criminal investigation. On 25 May 2004 the Mixed Chamber (“*Sala Mixta*”) of the Huancaveliza High Court of Justice issued a judgment acquitting all the persons accused of the enforced disappearance of Mr. Munárriz. The Mixed Chamber ordered the provisional termination of the proceedings and the continuation of the investigations.

Once all the elements of the case had been analyzed, the Court considered that there were sufficient evidence to determine that Mr. Munárriz had been a victim of enforced disappearance, which led to a violation of his right to personal liberty, integrity, life and recognition as a person.

Similarly, the Court concluded that Peru violated the victim’s right to judicial guarantees and judicial protection since no due investigation was carried out, there was no compliance with the obligation to find Mr. Munárriz and no compliance with the obligation to carry out an investigation within reasonable time. Additionally, the Court concluded that the State violated the relatives’ right to know the truth.

Lastly, the Court concluded that the State violated the relatives’ right to human treatment due to the deep pain and suffering caused by these facts.

In view of the above, the Court ordered certain reparations.

You can find the official summary of the judgment [here](#) (in Spanish).

The Court's composition for the sentence included the following: Judge Eduardo Ferrer MacGregor Poisot, President (Mexico); Judge Humberto Antonio Sierra Porto (Colombia); Judge Elizabeth Odio Benito (Costa Rica); Judge Eugenio Raúl Zaffaroni (Argentina); and Judge Patricio Pazmiño Freire (Ecuador). Due to *force majeure* reasons, Judge Eduardo Vio Grossi, Vice-President (Chile), did not participate in this period of sessions.

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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