

Press Release

Inter-American Court of Human Rights

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INTER-AMERICAN COURT WILL HOLD ITS 131st PERIOD OF REGULAR SESSIONS

San José, Costa Rica, October 2, 2019.- The Inter-American Court will hold its 131st Period of Regular Sessions from October 7-17 in San José, Costa Rica.

I. Judgments

The Court will deliberate the following contentious cases. The deliberations are private.

a) Case of Romero Feris v. Argentina ¹

The case relates to the alleged illegal and arbitrary detention against Mr. Raúl Rolando Romero Feris, in Argentina, in 1999, as well as the alleged violations of due process in the criminal cases against him. The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights ("the Commission") consider that Mr. Romero was deprived of his liberty five months more than he should have for his preventive detention. Consequently, it was alleged that during such detention the applicable legislation was violated, and would have been arbitrary and in violation of the principle of presumption of innocence. Likewise, it was alleged that throughout the criminal cases against Mr. Romero Feris, his defense presented on multiple occasions and through different resources a series of questions related to the right to be judged by a competent, independent and impartial authority. It was argued that the appeals were rejected through motivations in which either generic invocations of the law were made, or it was argued that the matter was not a matter of analysis through the respective way by which it was considered that Argentina would have violated the rights to judicial guarantees and judicial protection.

You can find more about the case [here](#) (available only in Spanish).

b) Case of Hernández v. Argentina²

The case relates to the alleged lack of access to the health of José Luis Hernández, who allegedly contracted meningitis while deprived of liberty. It is alleged that the State would have violated the rights to personal integrity and not to be subjected to cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment. In this regard, it is argued that Mr. Hernández would not have had an effective remedy to protect his right to health. Likewise, the State would have violated the right to personal liberty and presumption of innocence of the alleged victim, since he was imposed mandatory preventive detention in contravention of inter-American standards and because the

¹ Judge Raúl Zaffaroni, of Argentine nationality, will not participate in the deliberation and adoption of this judgment, in accordance with Article 19.1 of the Rules of the Court.

² *Ídem.*

victim would have been deprived of liberty for one year and six months at a police station.

You can find more about the case [here](#) (available only in Spanish).

c) Case of Perrone and Preckel v. Argentina³

The case relates to the alleged violation of the rights to judicial guarantees and judicial protection in administrative and judicial proceedings initiated by Elba Clotilde Perrone and Juan José Preckel for the purpose of requesting payment of salaries and social benefits no longer received in the state entity where they worked, as a result of their arbitrary deprivation of liberty during the military dictatorship in 1976 by state agents. It is alleged that the period of more than twelve years of administrative and judicial proceedings would exceed a period that could be considered reasonable.

You can find more about the case [here](#) (available only in Spanish).

d) Case of Girón et al. v. Guatemala

The present case is related to an alleged series of violations of due process rights in the framework of the criminal process against the alleged victims, which culminated in the imposition of the death penalty, and their executions by means of a platoon of televised shooting. It is alleged that the State received violated the rights of the alleged victims at the time and adequate means for defense and a service assisted by a defender provided by the State. On the other hand, it is alleged that the method of executing the death penalty through a firing squad was incompatible with the right to personal integrity and the prohibition of torture because it is not designed to cause as little physical damage as possible as international problems demand.

You can find more about the case [here](#) (available only in Spanish).

e) Case of Ruiz Fuentes v. Guatemala

The case relates to an alleged series of violations of due process committed in the framework of the criminal process against the alleged victim for the crime of kidnapping that culminated in his death sentence, as well as alleged torture perpetrated at the time of the detention. In turn, the violation of the right to appeal the conviction and the right to judicial protection is alleged. It is also contended that the alleged victim was extra judicially executed after he escaped from prison in 2005.

You can find more about the case [here](#) (available only in Spanish).

f) Case of Rodríguez Revolorio et al. v. Guatemala

The case relates to an alleged series of violations of due process committed within the framework of the criminal process that ended in the conviction of the alleged victims on death penalty. It is alleged that the State is responsible for the violation of the right of defense as well as the duty of motivation in relation to the presumption of innocence. In turn, the violation of the right to appeal the conviction and the right to judicial protection is alleged. It is also purported that the State allegedly violated the right to personal integrity of the alleged victims, by configuring the phenomenon of the "death row" under which they remained between 3 and 14 years awaiting execution and in inadequate detention conditions.

You can find more about the case [here](#) (available only in Spanish).

³ *Ídem.*

g) Case of Valenzuela Ávila et al. v. Guatemala

The case relates to an alleged series of violations of due process committed in the framework of the criminal process against Mr. Valenzuela, for the crime of murder, which culminated in his death sentence, as well as alleged torture perpetrated in the moment of detention, after being recaptured after two leaks in 1998 and 2001, respectively. In addition, it is alleged that the death of the victim after fleeing in 2005 was an extrajudicial execution.

You can find more about the case [here](#) (available only in Spanish).

h) Case of Rosadio Villavicencio v. Peru

The case refers to the alleged violations of due process that were committed in the three processes, i) disciplinary administrative, ii) criminal and iii) military criminal that were initiated against Jorge Rosadio Villavicencio, for his performance in an operation of intelligence in which he had to infiltrate drug trafficking groups in the Zion area in Peru in order to proceed with the capture of drug traffickers.

You can find more about the case [here](#) (available only in Spanish).

II. Oversight of compliance with judgments, provisional measures, collaboration agreements and administrative matters

Additionally, the Court will supervise the compliance of several judgments and the implementation of the ordered provisional measures as well as analyses administrative matters.

III. PreCOP Workshop: "Integrating Human rights in National Climate Commitments and International Climate Negotiations"

On October 6 and 7, workshops and high-level round tables will be held at the headquarters of the Court in the framework of the events prior to the Conference of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (PreCOP), under the title: "Integrating Human rights in National Climate Commitments and International Climate Negotiations"

Judges of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, the Foreign Affairs Minister of the Republic of Costa Rica, Manuel Ventura Robles, as well as high United Nations authorities, such as the United Nations Deputy Secretary General for Human Rights, Andrew Gilmour, will be present Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, Alicia Bárcena and the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and the Environment, David R. Boyd. National authorities related to the implementation of environmental commitments and members of civil society will also participate.

The Court's composition during this period of sessions will be as follows: Judge Eduardo Ferrer Mac-Gregor Poisot, President (Mexico); Judge Eduardo Vio Grossi, Vice-President (Chile); Judge Humberto Antonio Sierra Porto (Colombia); Judge Elizabeth Odio Benito (Costa Rica); Judge Eugenio Raúl Zaffaroni (Argentina); Judge Patricio Pazmiño Freire (Ecuador) and Judge Ricardo Pérez Manrique (Uruguay).

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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