

Press Release

Inter-American Court of Human Rights
I/A Court H.R._PR-47/2020 English

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I/A Court H.R. Protecting Rights

INTER-AMERICAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS HELD ITS FIRST REMOTE PUBLIC HEARING

PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING THE REQUEST FOR AN ADVISORY OPINION ABOUT THE OBLIGATIONS IN MATTERS OF HUMAN RIGHTS OF A STATE THAT HAS DENOUNCED THE AMERICAN CONVENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS, REQUESTED BY COLOMBIA



San José, Costa Rica, June, 18 2020.- During the 135th Regular Period of Sessions of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, that is being held remotely, the Court conducted the Public Hearing of the Request for an Advisory Opinion about the Obligations in matters of Human Rights of a State that has denounced the American Convention on Human Rights, requested by Colombia.

The public hearing took place from June 15 to June 17 and was followed by the public through the Court's social media.

The public hearing was attended by these official delegations: State of Colombia (Requesting State), and other OAS member States such as Brazil, the United States of America, Honduras, and Nicaragua. In addition, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights attended the Public Hearing with the participation of its President, Commissioner Joel Hernández García, and the Commissioner Esmeralda Arosemena de Troitiño.

During the public hearing, the Court listened to the opinion of other 24 delegations, consisting of non-governmental organizations, academic institutions, and civil society individuals from Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, England, Mexico, Dominican Republic and Venezuela.

The President of the Inter-American Court, Judge Elizabeth Odio Benito highlighted the importance that the Court is able to continue its work using information and communication technologies. "For the Inter-American Court, it is very important to listen to the delegations and learn about their observations on this request for an Advisory Opinion", said the President to the delegations that attended the public hearing.

The subject of the Request for an Advisory Opinion is the interpretation by the Court on three issues:

- 1) The scope of the international obligations in the area of human rights protection and promotion of an OAS member State that has denounced the American Convention;
- 2) The effects on those obligations when the State, later on, takes the extreme measure of denouncing the constituent instrument of the regional Organization and seeks to effectively withdraw from it; and
- 3) The mechanisms available, on the one hand, to the international community and, in particular, to OAS member States, to demand compliance with these obligations and make them effective, and on the other, to individuals subject to the denouncing State's jurisdiction, to demand the protection of their human rights, when serious and systematic violations occur.

You can learn more about the Request for an Advisory Opinion [here](#).

You can find the public hearing video here:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCD1E1io4eeR0tk9k4r5CI9w>

The composition of the Court for this public hearing was as follows: Judge Elizabeth Odio Benito President (Costa Rica); Judge Patricio Pazmiño Freire Vice President (Ecuador), Judge Eduardo Vio Grossi, (Chile); Judge Humberto Antonio Sierra Porto (Colombia), Judge Eduardo Ferrer MacGregor Poisot, (Mexico), Judge Eugenio Raúl Zaffaroni (Argentina); and Judge Ricardo Pérez Manrique (Uruguay).

This press release was produced by the Secretariat of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, which is the only responsible for its content.

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