

Press Release 15/2025 English

## **NICARAGUA IS INTERNATIONALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE LACK OF ENHANCED DUE DILIGENCE IN THE INVESTIGATION OF A POTENTIALLY UNLAWFUL DEATH WITH INDICATIONS OF FEMICIDE**

*San José, Costa Rica, March 4, 2025.* In the judgment in the case of *Carrión González et al. v. Nicaragua*, notified today, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights declared the State of Nicaragua internationally responsible for the lack of due diligence and gender perspective in the criminal investigation into the potentially unlawful death, with indications of femicide, of Dina Alexandra Carrión González; the lack of due diligence in the proceedings regarding contact between Dina Alexandra Carrión González's son and his maternal grandparents; the lack of investigation into the threats received by one of Dina Alexandra's sisters, allegedly related to her promoting the investigation of the facts; and the impact of the impunity on the next of kin of Ms. Carrión González.

The official summary and the full text of the judgment can be accessed [here](#).

Dina Alexandra Carrión González was married to JCSS, with whom she had a relationship marked by violence. On the date of the facts, although the couple's relationship had ended and they had begun the divorce process, Dina Alexandra continued sharing her home with JCSS. On the night of April 3, 2010, Dina Alexandra Carrión González was found dead in the patio of her home with a shot to the chest.

The Court observed that, after the potentially unlawful death of Dina Alexandra Carrión González, the authorities began ex officio an investigation that had defects due to irregularities in the gathering and assessment of evidence, determination of the lines of investigation and conducting of the judicial process with guarantees of impartiality. The Court considered that this was not only non-compliance with the duty of enhanced due diligence in the investigation of the potentially unlawful death of Dina Alexandra but also prevented finding the truth of what occurred.

In the judgment the Court noted that an investigation with a gender perspective that meets the standard of enhanced due diligence and the guarantee of non-discrimination and right to equal protection should not be based on negative gender stereotypes or value judgments on the victim's private life, let alone use them as criteria to define or rule out the lines of investigation. Moreover, it reiterated that silence, omission and judicial negligence in cases of violence against women fosters and environment of impunity that conveys the message that these facts are tolerated and in turn legitimates a cycle of violence with very strong social repercussions that States have the obligation to eradicate.

Moreover, the Court called to mind that administrative and judicial proceedings involving the protection of the rights of the child must be processed with due diligence and exceptional celerity to prevent prolonged situations of uncertainty. It also noted that in this type of proceedings the passage of time can become a defining element for bonding and family relationships, as well as the basic principle of not adopting decisions that entail changes to the situation of the child.



The Court ordered several comprehensive reparation measures: (i) investigate the death of Dina Alexandra Carrión González and the threats to her sister and, if applicable, prosecute and punish those responsible; (ii) publish the judgment of the Inter-American Court and its summary; (iii) implement a mandatory program or course for operators of the justice administration regarding cases of potentially unlawful deaths of women that contemplates international standards on the matter of enhanced due diligence with a gender perspective; (iv) implement a mandatory program or course for persons in charge of receiving complaints of gender violence that offers training on how to address and denounce this type of crime, including a gender perspective; (v) implement a program to raise awareness and provide training on protocols for judges in matters regarding the situation of children and adolescents affected by the potentially unlawful death of their mother in possible cases of femicide; (vi) create an observatory that includes a database to systematically and periodically compile statistical information on gender violence; (vii) reset the mechanisms to file complaints of violence against women; (viii) create centers to provide protection and specialized care to receive and help victims of gender violence in need of protection; (ix) adopt and disseminate a protocol on handling and investigating facts of gender violence; (x) make the necessary adjustments to the domestic body of law to guarantee an investigation with a gender perspective of potentially unlawful deaths of women that might constitute femicides; (xi) adopt the legislative measures necessary to adapt the criminal definition of femicide so that the legal configuration reflects the nature of the conduct; (xii) adopt the measures necessary to eliminate or restrict procedures for mediation and conciliation in all crimes involving violence against women; (xiii) adopt the measures required to ensure that proceedings regarding the situation of children and adolescents affected by the possible femicide of their mother are processed with exceptional due diligence and celerity and that adequate measures are provided that agree with the best interest of the child; (xiv) pay the amounts set forth in the judgment for rehabilitation, compensation and legal costs, and (xv) reimbursement by the State to the Victim's Legal Assistance Fund of the Court.

Judge Nancy Hernández López, Judge Humberto Antonio Sierra Porto and Judge Patricia Pérez Goldberg disclosed their joint partially dissenting opinion. Judge Rodrigo Mudrovitsch disclosed his concurring opinion.

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The Court's composition for the issuing of this judgment was as follows: Judge Nancy Hernández López, President (Costa Rica); Judge Rodrigo Mudrovitsch, Vice-President (Brazil); Judge Humberto Antonio Sierra Porto (Colombia); Judge Eduardo Ferrer Mac-Gregor Poisot (México); Judge Ricardo C. Pérez Manrique (Uruguay); Judge Verónica Gómez (Argentina) and Judge Patricia Pérez Goldberg (Chile).

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