

Press Release

Inter-American Court of Human Rights

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I/A Court H.R. Protecting Rights

PRESIDENT OF THE INTER-AMERICAN COURT PARTICIPATES IN THE WORLD PRESS FREEDOM DAY 2022



Punta del Este, Uruguay, May 6, 2022. The President of the Inter-American Court, Judge Ricardo C. Pérez Manrique, and the Secretary of the Court, Pablo Saavedra Alessandri, participated in the World Press Freedom Day Global Conference organized by UNESCO, held from May 2 to May 5, 2022, in Punta del Este, Uruguay.

The President took part in the Regional Event, *Tenth Anniversary of the United Nations Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity: Achievements and Challenges in Latin America and the Caribbean*, as part of the World Conference program. "The Court has indicated in its Case Law that the murder of journalists and members of the media constitutes censorship in its most extreme form"; said Pérez Manrique.

"The safety of journalists is essential to guarantee and protect the rights to freedom of expression, access to information and press freedom within societies. It is part of SDG 16.10 on public access to information and freedom, which is important for achieving all the other Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), such as gender equality, climate change, the elimination of poverty and the reduction of inequalities"; highlighted Judge Ricardo C. Pérez Manrique.

"The Inter-American Court has opened a space for dialogue with more than 6,000 journalists who make up the DIALOGUE Network of Journalists for Human Rights in Latin America and the Caribbean. We have already completed three rounds of the Diploma for Journalists and we will continue this year with two more rounds, in addition to specific training designed for journalists from the Caribbean"; said the Inter-American Court President.

In turn, the Judge participated in the discussion panel with presidents of regional human rights courts on the legal frameworks that support the right to freedom of expression and the safety of journalists, together with the African Court of Human and People's Rights and the European Court of Human Rights.

"We have to make progress in the dialogue on Case Law that we have been conducting between the three regional courts, deepening the exchange on decisions regarding freedom of expression"; said President Judge Ricardo C. Pérez Manrique.

Meanwhile, the head of the Inter-American Court gave the closing presentation of UNESCO's World Press Freedom Day Global Conference as part of the Panel entitled: *Most recent case law of the Inter-American Court on freedom of expression, freedom of the press and the safety of journalists*. The presentation can be viewed here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v= NenhtFLN3c>

Meetings with journalists and human rights defenders



At the beginning of the event, in context with the World Press Freedom Day Conference, the Inter-American Court President, Judge Ricardo C. Pérez Manrique, held a working meeting with UNESCO Director General, Audrey Azoulay.

The two exchanged information about the projects jointly promoted by both organizations in defence of freedom of expression in Latin America and the Caribbean. The Inter-American Court offers the Diploma in Human Rights for Journalists, currently in its fourth round.

The President of the Inter-American Court held a meeting with the International Freedom of Expression Exchange network, IFEX, with whom he explored in detail the challenges surrounding the protection and safety of journalists in the region. He, in turn, presented the activities that are being carried out under the #DialogueNetwork (#RedDialoga) of Journalists for Human Rights in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Judge Pérez Manrique also held a meeting with Mr. Víctor Moriñigo, President of ENLACE, the Association of Latin American Universities, and Rector of the University of San Luis in Argentina.

The President of the Court also met with Angela Erpel Jara and Luisa Rodríguez Gaitán, democracy and human rights coordinators of the Conosur Regional Office and Colombia Office, respectively, for the Heinrich Boll Foundation.

Among other activities, the delegation of the Inter-American Court held an interview with the Senior Vice President of AP, Karen Kaiser, discussing training activities for journalists in the case law of the Inter-American Court.

Lastly, the Judge held a meeting with the United Nations Special Rapporteur on freedom of opinion and expression, Irene Khan. The Special Rapporteur expressed particular regard for the Inter-American Court case law on the protection of journalists and the focus on intersectionality between gender and freedom of expression in the judgment in the Case of Bedoya Lima et al. v. Colombia.

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