

Summonses

Inter-American Court of Human Rights

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MORE THAN 1500 PEOPLE ATTEND THE WEEK OF EVENTS IN COMMEMORATION OF THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CREATION OF THE INTER-AMERICAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS CONCLUDES

San José, Costa Rica, 23 July 2018 – From the 16th through the 19th of July, in the framework of the 125th Period of Regular Sessions, the Inter-American Court celebrated the “40th Anniversary of the entry into force of the American Convention on Human Rights and the creation of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights,” in which more than a thousand people participated over four days of productive conferences and exchanges.

I. Events

a. Monday, 16 July 2018

The week of events began this past Monday with an opening ceremony that included the participation of Judge Eduardo Ferrer Mac-Gregor, President of the Inter-American Court, his Excellency Mr. Carlos Alvarado Quesada, President of the Republic of Costa Rica, and his Excellency Mr. António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations. For more information about the activity, please see the press release from 17 July [here](#).



b. Tuesday, 17 July 2018

On 17 July a productive dialogue between the African Court of Human and Peoples' Rights, the European Court of Human Rights, and our Inter-American Court took place at the headquarters of the Inter-American Court, during which the tribunals of these three continents committed to maintaining a constant multiregional relationship with the objective of strengthening and promoting human rights.



c. Wednesday, 18 July 2018

On 18 July the international seminar, "Successes and challenges in the regional human rights systems," took place in the National Theatre of Costa Rica. The inaugural table included the President of the Court, Eduardo Ferrer Mac-Gregor; the President of the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights, Commissioner Margarette May Macaulay; the President of the African Court of Human and Peoples' Rights, Sylvain Oré; the President of the European Court of Human Rights, Guido Raimondi; the President of the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights, Thomas Buergenthal; and the President of the Republic of Costa Rica, his Excellency Mr. Carlos Alvarado Quesada. The President of the Inter-American Court took the opportunity to underline the "historic meeting" that had taken place between the three regional courts the day before. In addition, he also dedicated a few words to the victims of human rights violations, "the *raison d'être* of the Inter-American Human Rights System," and concluded by emphasizing the necessity of "doubling our efforts in the path to peace, justice, and human rights."



For his part, the President of the Republic of Costa Rica, who had the honor of closing the session at the inaugural table, gave a moving speech in which he highlighted the obligation of all States to “promote and strengthen the functions entrusted to the Inter-American Commission and Inter-American Court of Human Rights.” As such, it is necessary (and, in the words of Alvarado, a “challenge” for the human rights protection system) “to confer upon the Inter-American Court a permanency for the exercise of its jurisdictional labors” and with it the goal of leveling its operations with those of other international tribunals.

After the end of the session at the inaugural table, an historical incident occurred, that is, the signing by the Presidents of the three regional courts of the **“Declaration of San José,”** a declaration that has as its goal the establishment of a Permanent Forum of Institutional Dialogue between the three regional courts and the joint work of strengthening human rights protections, democratic institutions, and access to international justice of people under its jurisdiction. The signing of this important Declaration also included the signature of the President of the Republic of Costa Rica, Carlos Alvarado Quesada, as a witness.

After the signing of the Declaration, the seminar continued, which included the participation of the former presidents of the Inter-American Court, the Inter-American Commission of Human rights, the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights, and recognized academics. This was divided into three panels, entitled “40 years of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights,” “From the interpretation of norms to social change,” and “The Inter-American Court of Human Rights and challenges for the validity of human rights of women in the region,” respectively.

d. Thursday, 19 July 2018

On 19 July the second and last day of the international seminar was celebrated. The venue had originally been planned to be the headquarters of the Inter-American Court; however, due to the success of the convocation (with the number of RSVPs exceeding 800), it was moved to the [Sala Magna \(Large Lecture Hall\) of the Ciudad de la Investigación of the Universidad de Costa Rica.](#)

During the day the audience heard from the voices of representatives of high national courts of Ibero-America, some of the victims of human rights violations that had successfully brought cases before the Inter-American System of Human Rights, governmental and non-governmental human rights institutions, distinguished academics, and human rights defenders and advocates. The activity was divided into three panels called: “Jurisprudential Dialogue: The Inter-American

Court of Human Rights and its interaction with the high national courts”; “Protecting human rights: the voice of victims”; and “Actors, strategies, and litigation before the Inter-American Court of Human Rights: different perspectives.” After the conclusion of the panel dedicated to giving voice to victims, the documentary “40 years of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, the voice of victims” was presented, in which testimonies of victims who found justice in petitioning the protector of the American Convention on Human Rights had been gathered together. In the evening of 19 July, the President of the Inter-American Court, Judge Eduardo Ferrer Mac-Gregor, concluded the international seminar, but not before congratulating the 40 years of the American Convention on Human Rights and extending such congratulations to each of the assistants, which “now form part of these first forty years of life of the Inter-American Court.”

II. Covenants of Collaboration

In the context of the present week’s commemorative activities, the Inter-American Court signed a covenant of collaboration with the Fidélitas University, the University La Salle of Costa Rica, the National Association of Magistrates of the Judiciary of Chile, the Autonomous University “Benito Juárez” of Oaxaca, the Inter-American Association of Public Defenders (AIDEF), and the Complutense University of Madrid.

III. Thanks

The Inter-American Court would like to give special thanks to the financers of this event, the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ), the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung Foundation, the Secretariat of Foreign Relations of Mexico, the Ministry of Foreign Relations of Norway, the European Union, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, and the Spanish Agency of International Cooperation for Development (AECID).

All of the official photos from the events can be found at the following link: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/corteidh/albums>

This release was produced by the Secretariat of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, which has the sole responsibility to do so.

For the latest information please visit the website of the Inter-American Court, <http://corteidh.or.cr/en>, or send an email to Pablo Saavedra Alessandri, Secretary, at corteidh@corteidh.or.cr. For press inquiries please contact Marta Cabrera Martín at prensa@corteidh.or.cr.

You can sign up for updates from the court at <http://www.corteidh.or.cr/index.php/en/court-today/servicios-de-informacion>. You can also follow the activities of the Court on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

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