

# Summonses

Inter-American Court of Human Rights

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## INTER-AMERICAN COURT WILL HOLD ITS 59TH PERIOD OF SPECIAL SESSIONS IN SAN SALVADOR

*San José, Costa Rica, 17 August 2018-* The Inter-American Court will hold its 59<sup>th</sup> Period of Special Sessions, from 27-31 August in San Salvador, El Salvador. This was made possible due to the kind invitation made by the Government of El Salvador, as well as the financial support provided by Norway and the Heinrich Böll Stiftung Foundation.

Information relating to cases, scheduling of programs, and sign-up sheets for the activities mentioned below can be found online at the following link: <http://www.corteidh.or.cr/59PES/>

The access to all these activities will be public and free and will take place at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of El Salvador, in the "Salón de Honor". The Inter-American Court will issue certificates of attendance.

### I. Public Hearings

The Court will hold the following public hearings:

a) *Case Gómez Virula et al. Vs. Guatemala* (27 August, from 15:00 to 18:00)

This case is connected to the alleged disappearance and subsequent assassination of Alejandro Yovany Gómez Virula in March 1995. It is alleged that the Guatemalan State is responsible for violating the rights to life, personal integrity, and personal liberty of Mr. Gómez, as it is alleged that no measures were employed to search for him after becoming aware of the disappearance of the victim. It is further alleged that up until the time of discovery of Mr. Gómez's body, it was demanded that the State take immediate and diligent means to search for and protect the victim, which did not happen. Likewise, it is alleged that the State violated Mr. Gómez's right to liberty of association because, despite there being significant evidence that the disappearance and assassination of Mr. Gómez could have been linked to his activities as a union leader, Guatemala did not carry out any kind of investigation on the subject. Learn more about the case [here](#).

b) *Case Rico Vs. Argentina*<sup>1</sup> (28 August, from 9:00 to 18:00)

This case is in reference to the alleged dismissal of Eduardo Rico as a Judge of the Labor Court

<sup>1</sup> Judge Eugenio Raúl Zaffaroni will participate in neither the hearing nor the deliberations of the case as he is of Argentine nationality, pursuant to Article 19(1) of the Rules of the Court.

No. 6 of the Judicial Department of San Isidro in Argentina, as well as his inability to find other work in the Judiciary for supposedly having committed disciplinary offenses, as determined by a trial jury. The Commission found that the State had violated the right to appeal a verdict in relation to its obligation to respect the right and duty to adopt rulings of internal law, bearing in mind that Law 8085 established that decisions of the Trial Jury are non-appealable, which is why the victim allegedly could not have the established findings reviewed, the evidence used, or the disciplinary grounds applied. Read more about the case [here](#).

## **2) International Seminar**

On Wednesday, 29 August, as part of the objective of bringing the public closer to the Inter-American System for the Protection of Human Rights, a public and free international seminar will be held, called "40 years of Jurisprudence of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights regarding vulnerable groups and its impact."

This seminar will be held in the Hall of Honor of the Ministry of Foreign Relations in San Salvador, El Salvador. More information can be found [here](#).

## **3) Due Diligence of Supervising Compliance with the Judgment**

On the 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> of August, a delegation of the Court will visit the Morazán Department, with the purpose of supervising compliance with the judgment issued in the Case *Masacres de El Mozote y lugares aledaños Vs. El Salvador*, concerning serious massacres perpetrated in 1981 during the internal armed conflict in El Salvador. During this visit the Court's delegation will receive direct information from the State, the victims, as well as the victims' representatives duly accredited.

On the 29<sup>th</sup> the Court will receive information from the San Francisco Gotera Court of First Instance no. 2 as regards the obligation to investigate, prosecute and punish those responsible for the violations declared in the above-mentioned judgment. On the 30<sup>th</sup> a delegation of the Court will relocate to the El Mozote community and another nearby community (Arambala) with the goal of receiving direct information and verifying the execution in regards to the four measures of reparation that are pending compliance:

- continue with the full commissioning of the 'Unique Registry of Victims of serious human rights violations during the El Mozote massacre' and adopt the necessary means to ensure its temporal permanency and budgetary allocation for its effective operations;
- implementing a development program in favor of the community of the village of El Mozote, the La Joya region, the villages of Ranchería, Los Toriles, and Jocote Amarillo, and the Cerro Pando quarter;
- guarantee adequate conditions so that the displaced victims can permanently return to their communities of origin, if they so wish, as well as implement a housing program in the zones affected by the massacres of the case;
- implement a permanent program of assistance and comprehensive treatment of physical, mental, and psychosocial health;

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The composition of the Court for this period of Special Sessions will include the following: Judge Eduardo Ferrer Mac-Gregor Poisot, President (Mexico); Judge Humberto Antonio Sierra Porto (Colombia); Judge Elizabeth Odio Benito (Costa Rica); Judge Eugenio Raúl Zaffaroni (Argentina); and Judge Patricio Pazmiño Freire (Ecuador). For *force majeure* reasons, Judge Eduardo Vio Grossi, Vice-President (Chile), will not participate in this period of sessions.

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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](mailto:corteidh@corteidh.or.cr). For press inquiries please contact Marta Cabrera Martín at [prensa@corteidh.or.cr](mailto: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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