

Press Release 35/2025

INTER-AMERICAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND RAFAEL LANDÍVAR UNIVERSITY LAUNCH SEMINAR ON JURISPRUDENCE AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Guatemala City, May 20, 2025. – As part of the 176th Regular Session, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights held, on May 19, the international seminar “Jurisprudential lines of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and their impact” in collaboration with Universidad Rafael Landívar, seat of the event.

The seminar gathered academic authorities, state representatives and members of the Court to discuss key topics on the development of inter-American jurisprudence.

The inauguration was led by Judge Nancy Hernández López, President of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights; Dr. Larry Andrade-Abularach, Secretary General of Universidad Rafael Landívar; and Arely Marisol Zea Wellmann, Deputy Executive Director of the Presidential Commission for Peace and Human Rights (COPADEH), who highlighted the relevance of the seminar to the strengthening of justice and democracy in the region.

Judge Nancy Hernández López spoke about the transformational dimension of the Court’s work: “This seminar represents an opportunity, as a juridical and academic community, to reflect on the challenges faced by our democracies and the key role of human rights in strengthening them. It is a platform to renew our commitment to justice that is alive, transcends the classroom and files, and is embodied by discerning and informed citizens who are committed to human dignity.”

Dr. Larry Andrade-Abularach mentioned the institution’s pride in hosting this type of initiative at the main campus: “Holding the activity at our facilities reflects the University’s prominent role in human rights, justice and democracy matters. This is a very special learning opportunity to directly observe the work of the highest Court of Human Rights in the Americas.”

Lastly, Arely Marisol Zea Wellmann, Deputy Executive Director of the Presidential Commission for Peace and Human Rights (COPADEH), highlighted the key role of inter-American jurisprudence in institutional strengthening and in people’s lives: “These jurisprudential lines act as bridges between international law and domestic legal systems, they invite us or rather require us to rethink our standards, practices and doctrines.”

During the activities there were two panel discussions that gathered judges, academics and human rights experts:

Panel discussion 1 addressed the topics of independence of the judiciary, freedom of expression and the right to participate in government. The participants were Judge Nancy Hernández López, President of the I/A Court HR; Judge Rodrigo Mudrovitsch, Vice-President of the Court; and Judge Alberto Borea Odría, also a member of the Court. It was moderated by Alfredo Ortega Franco, teacher at the Faculty of Legal and Social Sciences of Universidad Rafael Landívar.

Panel discussion 2 covered the topics of indigenous peoples, the environment and the impact of the decisions of the I/A Court HR. The participants were Mónica Mazariegos Rodas, Deputy Secretary of Political Dialogue and Governance of the Private Secretariat of the Presidency; Pablo González Domínguez, Legal Director of the I/A Court HR; and Carlos Martínez Roca, human rights attorney and teacher at the Faculty of Political and Social Sciences of Universidad Rafael Landívar. It was moderated by Pablo Pacheco Samayoa, attorney advisor to the Magistrates of the Constitutional Court of Guatemala.

Before the main activity, the prize for the photography contest “Focusing on Rights: a photographic journey along with the I/A Court HR,” for the category “Focus on rights,” organized as part of the 45th Anniversary of the I/A Court HR, was handed out to the winner. This initiative sought to recognize, from an arts and visual cultural perspective, the transformational impact of the decisions of the Court in the living history of Latin America and the Caribbean.

Photographer James Rodríguez, author of the work entitled “29th Anniversary of the Massacre at Pak’oxom,” participated in the event and delivered the original picture, which will be permanently exhibited at the seat of the Court. The image was presented by the organization Lawyers Without Borders Canada in Guatemala, represented by Claudia López David, who expressed that: “The jurisprudence of this Court has been a beacon of faith and a key tool to defend human rights in adverse contexts. This image reflects not only the painful past but also the dignity of those who keep claiming justice.” The photograph was recognized for its ability to show both the memory of and the persistent fight for justice. “These awards are always a good moment to put the topic back on the table. This image honors those who were silenced and those, such as Carlos Chen, who continue to seek justice for their people,” Rodríguez expressed upon receiving the award.

The event was broadcast through the Court’s social media channels. The full recording of the event can be accessed [here](#):

The information on the agenda and activities of the 176th Regular Session are available at: bit.ly/176POS-Gt.



The Court would like to thank the cooperation of Sweden (ASDI), Spain (AECID) and Germany (BMZ/GIZ), whose support was key to holding this Regular Session in Guatemala.

Organizadores:



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