

Press Release

Inter-American Court of Human Rights

I/A Court H.R._PR-41/2023 English

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I/A Court H.R. Protecting Rights

INTER-AMERICAN COURT ORDERS THE STATE OF NICARAGUA TO RELEASE MONSIGNOR ROLANDO JOSÉ ÁLVAREZ LAGOS IMMEDIATELY

San José, June 28, 2023. Today, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights has served notice to the State of Nicaragua of the Order it has adopted on Provisional Measures in favor of Monsignor Rolando José Álvarez Lagos, Bishop of Matagalpa, requiring his immediate release.

In this Order, the Court found that the detention of Monsignor Álvarez Lagos involved a series of factors that made it necessary to adopt Provisional Measures because he was at serious risk of suffering irreparable harm to his life, health and personal integrity.

The Court also asserted that this situation was aggravated because he had been sentenced to the “permanent loss of his citizenship rights and the loss of his Nicaraguan nationality,” and this placed him in a situation of extreme vulnerability.

Consequently, the Court decided:

1. To require the State of Nicaragua to proceed immediately to release Monsignor Rolando José Álvarez Lagos, Bishop of Matagalpa, and to adopt the necessary measures to provide effective protection to his life, health and personal integrity.
2. To require the State, while the necessary administrative procedures were being taken for the immediate release of Monsignor Álvarez Lagos, to guarantee dignified treatment by immediate access to health services, medicines, and adequate food, and also to facilitate his contact with family members and lawyers. This order cannot be used to delay the beneficiary’s release.
3. To incorporate the Provisional Measures granted by this Order into the *Matter of Juan Sebastián Chamorro and others with regard to Nicaragua*, so that the situation of Monsignor Rolando José Álvarez Lagos is included in that matter.

The Court granted the State of Nicaragua until July 7, 2023, to provide information on the situation of Monsignor Rolando José Álvarez Lagos in light of the measures taken to comply with this decision.

The order on Provisional Measures is available [here](#).

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