

Press Release

Inter-American Court of Human Rights
I/A Court H.R._PR-46/2022 English

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I/A Court H.R. Protecting Rights

INTER-AMERICAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS HELD ITS 65TH SPECIAL SESSION



San José, Costa Rica, August 1, 2022. The Inter-American Court held its 65th Special Session between July 25 and 27, 2022. The former composition of the Court met virtually to continue hearing and deliberating on the Case of Members and Militants of the Patriotic Union v. Colombia. The Court also deliberated various Judgments of Interpretation.

I. Judgments

The Court deliberated the Judgment in the following Contentious Case, which will be notified shortly and will be available [here](#).

I. Case of the Members and Militants of the Patriotic Union v. Colombia¹

On June 13, 2018, the State of Colombia submitted this case to the Court, in accordance with Articles 51 and 61 of the American Convention on Human Rights. Similarly, on June 29, 2018, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights also submitted this case to the Court. This case deals with the alleged successive and serious human rights violations committed to the detriment of more than 6,000 victims, members and militants of the Patriotic Union (UP) political party in Colombia, occurring from 1984 and lasting over 20 years. The facts involve forced disappearances, threats, harassment, forced displacement and attempted murders against members and activists of the UP, presumably perpetrated by state agents, and non-state actors with their alleged tolerance and acquiescence.

Furthermore, it is alleged that certain alleged victims in the case had been subjected to unfounded criminalization or the arbitrary use of criminal law and torture in several cases, for which it was

concluded that the State had violated the rights to personal liberty, right to a fair trial, privacy and judicial protection. In addition, the State allegedly violated political rights, freedom of thought and expression, freedom of association, and the principle of equality and non-discrimination, since the motive for the serious human rights violations committed against the alleged victims would have been their membership of a political party and the expression of their ideas through it.

It is also alleged that the victims in this case were continually stigmatized through statements by public officials and non-state actors, including being described as terrorists or the political arm of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), a stigmatization that would have caused serious violence to be unleashed against them, for which it determined that the State had violated the victims right to privacy. It is argued that the investigations carried out by the State regarding the facts of the case were in an initial stage and insufficient, and were unable to provide either the survivors, the deceased's next of kin, or Colombian society as a whole, with a true clarification on the responsibility for the extermination of the members and activists of the UP, for which it concluded that the State had violated the right to a fair trial and judicial protection.

Learn more about the case [here](#).

The Court also deliberated the following Judgments of Interpretation in the cases below.

- a) Case of Cuya Lavy et al. v. Peru
- b) Case of the Maya Kaqchikel Indigenous Peoples de Sumpango et al. v. Guatemala
- c) Case of the Massacre of the Village of Los Josefinos v. Guatemala
- d) Case of Former Employees of the Judiciary v. Guatemala
- e) Case of the Teachers of Chañaral and other municipalities v. Chile²
- f) Case of Manuela et al. El Salvador

The Judgments of Interpretation will be notified soon and will be available [here](#).

¹ Judge Humberto Antonio Sierra Porto did not participate in the deliberation of this Judgment due to his Colombian nationality, in accordance with Art. 19 of the Court's Rules of Procedure.

² Judge Eduardo Vio Grossi did not participate in the deliberation of this Judgment of Interpretation due to his Chilean nationality, in accordance with Art. 19 of the Court's Rules of Procedure.

The composition of the Court for this Session was: Judge Elizabeth Odio Benito President (Costa Rica), Judge Patricio Pazmiño Freire Vice President (Ecuador), Judge Humberto Antonio Sierra Porto (Colombia), Judge Eduardo Ferrer Mac-Gregor Poisot (Mexico), Judge Eugenio Raúl Zaffaroni (Argentina) and Judge Ricardo C. Pérez Manrique (Uruguay). Judge Eduardo Vio Grossi (Chile) did not participate in these sessions for reasons of force majeure.

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