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I/A COURT HR HANDS OUT THE AWARDS TO THE WINNERS OF THE CONTEST “FOCUSING ON RIGHTS: A PHOTOGRAPHIC JOURNEY ALONG WITH THE I/A COURT HR”

San José, Costa Rica, August 14, 2025. On August 12, the award ceremony was held for the winners of the photography contest “Focusing on Rights: a photographic journey along with the I/A Court HR.” The act was led by Judge Nancy Hernández López, President of the Court. The awards ceremony was held at the facilities of the Colegio de Abogados y Abogadas de Costa Rica (Bar Association of Costa Rica).

During her speech, Judge Nancy Hernández López highlighted that *“Justice does not occur solely in judgments; it is also captured through images, colors and viewpoints that speak for themselves. When art and the law come together, they strengthen each other; the technical side of the law finds in art a vehicle for closeness and emotion, while art finds in the law a framework that protects and gives meaning to its message.”*

The awards were given to the following categories: in the “Humans in the lens” category, the photograph “Anguish” by photographer David Fonseca. In the “Portrait of a continent” category, the winner was “Immigrant via crucis, an exodus of faith” by photographer Emanuel Hernández Salinas, presented by Elizabeth Lara Rodríguez, Ombudsman of the Office of the Ombudsman for Human Rights of the People of Oaxaca (Mexico).

In the “Focus on rights” category, the winning photograph was “29th Anniversary of the Massacre at Pak’oxom,” taken by photographer James Rodríguez, presented by the organization Lawyers Without Borders Canada in Guatemala, on May 19, during the 176th Regular Session held in Guatemala.

Winner David Fonseca expressed that: *“Through photography we seek to bring visibility to stories that many are unable to tell, so that their voices can be heard and their memory remains. My commitment is to give a voice to those who have been obligated to migrate and do not have the opportunity to be heard.”*

Elizabeth Lara Rodríguez indicated that: *“From this stand we reiterate our commitment to bring visibility to your reality and to defend your right to migrate with dignity. Migration is a right and until dignity becomes the custom we will continue to work for human rights.”*

The photographs were assessed by an international jury composed of: María Fernanda García, from Chile, current director of the Museum of Memory and Human Rights of Chile, located in Santiago. Federico Ríos, Colombian photojournalist and finalist of the prestigious 2024 Pulitzer award for his coverage of the flow of immigrants through the Darién jungle. Lastly, on behalf of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, Judge Nancy Hernández López, from Costa Rica who presented the award.

As part of the celebration of the 45th Anniversary of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and with the goal of creating meaningful spaces of convergence between art, culture and the promotion of human rights, the Presidency of the Court created this

photography contest, in which 150 submissions from the region were received. Participation in the contest was open, free of charge and with no age restriction, aimed at nationals of Latin America and the Caribbean, with a special invitation to civil society organizations, journalists and the media.

The event was broadcast through the Court's social media channels. You may view the full recording [here](#) or the photo album [here](#).

This press release was produced by the Secretariat of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, which is the only responsible for its content.

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