

Press Release 59/2024 English

INTER-AMERICAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS HELD ITS 169th REGULAR SESSION



San José, Costa Rica, September 16, 2024. – The Inter-American Court of Human Rights held its 169th Regular Session from August 21 to September 6, 2024. During the session a ceremony was held to commemorate the 45th anniversary of the installation of the I/A Court HR. The Court also deliberated the judgment in six contentious cases and issued several orders of provisional measures and monitoring compliance with judgment.

I. 45th Anniversary of the Installation of the I/A Court HR

On September 3, the I/A Court HR commemorated 45 years since its installation. The President of the I/A Court HR, Judge Nancy Hernández López, inaugurated the activity. This was followed by speeches by Orlando Aguirre Gómez, President of the Supreme Court of Justice of Costa Rica, and Arnoldo André Tinoco, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Costa Rica.

The event also included three talks given by Elizabeth Odio Benito, former President of the I/A Court HR and former Minister of Justice of Costa Rica, Luis López Guerra, former judge of the European Court of Human Rights, and Catalina Botero Marino, Director of the UNESCO Chair on Freedom of Expression.

High-level national and international authorities, members of the diplomatic corps, former judges and academics were present at the event.

II. Judgments

The Court deliberated the judgment in the following contentious cases:

a) Case of González Méndez et al. v. Mexico¹

The Commission indicated that this case concerns the international responsibility of Mexico for “the failure to investigate, prosecute and punish those responsible for the disappearance of Antonio González Méndez, in a context of violence in the northern part of the state of Chiapas, where paramilitary groups, including the ‘Peace and Justice’ group, acted under the auspices of the State and with its consent,

committing acts of violence such as executions and disappearances.”

Further information on this case is available [here](#).

b) Case of Reyes Mantilla et al. v. Ecuador

The case relates to the alleged international responsibility of the State of Ecuador for the alleged illegal and arbitrary detention of Walter Ernesto Reyes Mantilla, Vicente Hipólito Arce Ronquillo and José Frank Serano Barrera between 1995 and 1996, for the lack of judicial guarantees in the criminal proceedings against them, unreasonable duration of the preventive detention, and alleged acts of aggression and threats during the detention. Regarding Mr. Serrano, it is considered that the State is responsible for the lack of information regarding his right to communicate with the Consulate of his country. Moreover, during the detention of Mr. Reyes the police authorities seized the car he was in, which belonged to his son, and the car was not returned once he was acquitted of the charges.

Further information on this case is available [here](#).

c) Case of Hidalgo et al. v. Ecuador

This case relates to the international responsibility of the State for the alleged torture and extrajudicial execution of Gustavo Washington Hidalgo, and the lack of due diligence in the investigation of the facts.

Further information on this case is available [here](#).

d) Case of the Tagaeri and Taromenane Indigenous Peoples v. Ecuador

This case concerns the alleged international responsibility of the State of Ecuador for a series of violations to the rights of the Tagaeri and Taromenane indigenous peoples and their members, in the context of projects that affect their territory, natural resources and way of life. It also refers to three incidents of violent deaths of members of these peoples that took place in 2003, 2006 and 2013, as well as the lack of adequate protection measures in relation to two girls, following the events of 2013.

Further information on this case is available [here](#).

e) Case of Pérez Lucas et al. v. Guatemala

This case refers to the alleged responsibility of the State for the alleged violations that took place as a consequence of the detention in April 1989 of Agapito Pérez Lucas, Nicolás Mateo, Macario Pú Chivalán and Luis Ruiz Luis, their subsequent forced disappearance and the alleged impunity status of the investigations.

Further information on this case is available [here](#).



f) Beginning of the deliberation in the Case of Capriles v. Venezuela

This case refers to the alleged responsibility of the State for the violation of the right to participate in government, freedom of expression, principle of freedom from ex post facto laws, judicial protection and judicial guarantees (right to a fair trial) to the detriment of Henrique Capriles Radonski, in the context of his political participation as presidential candidate in the elections of April 14, 2013.

Further information on this case is available [here](#). The deliberation of this case will continue during the next regular session.

Once the judgments are notified, they will be available [here](#).

III. Orders on Monitoring Compliance with Judgment

The Court issued orders on Monitoring Compliance with Judgment in the following cases:

- a) Case of Workers of the Fireworks Factory of Santo Antonio de Jesús and their next of kin v. Brazil
- b) Case of the Residents of the Village of Chichupac and neighboring communities, Municipality of Rabinal v. Guatemala
- c) Case of Ramírez Escobar et al. v. Guatemala
- d) Case of Leguizamón Zaván v. Paraguay
- e) Case of Pollo Rivera et al. v. Peru

Moreover, the Court resolved the requests for provisional measures filed in the following cases that are in the monitoring compliance with judgment stage:

- a) Case of the “Las Dos Erres” Massacre v. Guatemala
- b) Case of Molina Theissen v. Guatemala
- c) Case of García Cruz and Sánchez Silvestre v. Mexico

In the case of the Las Dos Erres Massacre, the Court adopted the provisional measures requested.

IV. Visit of the Colombian Special Jurisdiction for Peace



The President of the I/A Court HR, Judge Nancy Hernández López, along with the full Court and the Registrars, met with the Colombian Special Jurisdiction for Peace (SJP).



The representatives of the SJP were Judge Roberto Carlos Vidal, President, and Judge Alexandra Sandoval, Coordinator of the Gender Commission. Both judges presented their work to the team of attorneys of the Registrar's Office, in a space for dialog between the institutions.

V. Photography course "Focusing on rights: a photographic journey with the I/A Court HR"

In the context of the 45th anniversary of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, aiming to generate more spaces for participation by new groups regarding human rights in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Registrar's Office has created the [Photography Contest](#) "*Focusing on Rights: a photographic journey along with the I/A Court HR.*" This is an opportunity to recognize, through images and culture, the impact of the Court's decisions while performing its duty to protect human rights during the last four decades.

VI. Monitoring Compliance with Judgments, Provisional Measures and administrative matters

The Court also monitored compliance with various judgments and the implementation of provisional measures that it has ordered, as well as procedural issues in various contentious cases. It also addressed several administrative matters.

The Court would like to thank the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), implemented by GIZ, whose support was key to holding this Session.



¹ Judge Eduardo Ferrer Mac-Gregor Poisot, of Mexican nationality, did not participate in the deliberation of this order, in conformity with Article 19 of the Rules of Procedure of the Court.

This press release was drafted by the Registrar's Office of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights; it is solely responsible for this document.

For more information on the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, please visit www.corteidh.or.cr or write to the Registrar, Pablo Saavedra Alessandri, at corteidh@corteidh.or.cr. To contact the press office please write to Dannel Pinilla, Director of Communications and Press, at prensa@corteidh.or.cr.

You may subscribe to the Court's information services [here](#). If you wish to unsubscribe, please send an email to comunicaciones@corteidh.or.cr. You may also follow the Court's activities through: [Facebook](#), [X](#) (@CorteIDH for the account in Spanish, @IACourHR for the account in English, and @CorteDirHumanos for the account in Portuguese), [Instagram](#), [Flickr](#), [Vimeo](#), [YouTube](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [SoundCloud](#).

