



Press Release 67/2025 English

INTER-AMERICAN COURT PERFORMED VISIT TO COLOMBIA TO MONITOR COMPLIANCE WITH JUDGMENTS

San José, Costa Rica, September 17, 2025. A delegation of the Inter-American Court and its Registrar's Office visited Bogotá, Colombia, from September 9 to 11, 2025, to hold private hearings on monitoring compliance with judgment in six cases regarding Colombia and meet with several State authorities.

On behalf of the Court, the activities were led by Judge Ricardo C. Pérez Manrique; accompanied by the Deputy Registrar, Gabriela Pacheco Arias; Ana Lucía Aguirre Garabito, Director of the Unit of Monitoring Compliance with Judgment; Danniell Alejandro Pinilla, Director of Communications and Press, and Ana Lucía Ugalde Jiménez, attorney from the Unit of Monitoring Compliance with Judgment.

The I/A Court HR would like to thank the State of Colombia for its willingness and collaboration to perform these activities of monitoring compliance with judgment in its territory. Specifically, it recognizes the collaboration of the Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law Directorate of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in organizing the necessary logistics. Moreover, we would like to thank the Special Jurisdiction for Peace (SJP) for its collaboration in holding the monitoring activities at its facilities.

I. Hearings on Monitoring Compliance with Judgment

From September 9 to 11, 2025, private hearings on monitoring compliance with judgment were held in six cases regarding Colombia, which took place at the seat of the Special Jurisdiction for Peace.

The Court has highlighted the importance of States permitting this type of proceedings in their territory, since these activities enable greater participation by the victims and the various State officials and authorities directly in charge of implementing and executing the various reparations ordered in the judgments, and they create an opportunity to establish direct dialogue between the parties and more willingness to assume commitments aimed at a prompt compliance with provisional measures and reparations.

1. *Hearing in the Case of Movilla Galarcio et al.*

In the 2022 judgment, the State of Colombia was declared internationally responsible for the forced disappearance of Pedro Julio Movilla Galarcio, trade unionist and political activist of the Marxist-Leninist Communist Party of Colombia and Frente Popular, which took place on May 13, 1993, in a context of political persecution and violence, directed by the State, of social sectors due to their dissident activities, claims, or social mobilization.

The hearing, held on September 9, 2025, sought to receive updated and detailed information from the State and the observations of the victims, their representatives and the Inter-American Commission (IACHR) on seven reparations, namely:

- i. to continue the investigations and the ongoing criminal proceedings related to the disappearance of Mr. Movilla Galarcio;
- ii. to continue to search for Mr. Movilla Galarcio;
- iii. to publish a summary of the judgment in the Official Gazette;
- iv. to provide grants to the victims that request them;
- v. to allow Pedro Julio Movilla Galarcio's relatives access to the information about him that it holds, and shall remove all mention of him as an enemy of the State from all records in its possession;
- vi. to pay the sums established as a measure of rehabilitation; and
- vii. to pay the sums established as compensation for non-pecuniary damages to the beneficiaries of the nine deceased victims.

The victims who participated in the hearing were Candelaria Nuris Vergara Carriazo and José Antonio Movilla Vergara, wife and son of Mr. Movilla Galarcio, respectively, and their representatives (Colectivo de Abogados y Abogadas "José Alvear Restrepo"- CAJAR). Karin Mansel, advisor to the Executive Secretary of the Inter-American Commission also participated. The State's delegation included authorities and officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (including the Director of Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law); the Presidential Advisor on Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law; the Ministry of National Defense; the Ministry of Health and Social Protection; the Ministry of National Education; the Ministry of Information Technology and Communications; the Attorney General's Office; Magistrates of the Special Jurisdiction for Peace; the Search Unit for Persons Presumed to be Disappeared; the National Institute of Legal Medicine and Forensic Sciences; the National General Archive; and the National Intelligence Directorate.



2. Hearing in the Case of Guzmán Medina et al.

In the judgment of 2023, the State was found internationally responsible for the forced disappearance of Arles Edison Guzmán Medina, which took place on November 30, 2002, in Medellín. At the time of the facts, the State was carrying out operatives at Medellín's Comuna 13, including "Operation Orion". In this context, the inhabitants of Comuna 13 were subject to forced disappearances, arbitrary detentions, attacks on their life and personal integrity, death threats and displacement.

The hearing, held on September 9, 2025, sought to receive updated and detailed information from the State and the observations of the victims, their representatives and the Inter-American Commission (IACHR) on compliance with eight reparations, namely:

- i. to continue the investigations and the criminal proceedings that are underway in relation to the forced disappearance of Mr. Guzmán Medina;
- ii. to continue the actions to search for Mr. Guzmán Medina;
- iii. to provide medical, psychological and psychiatric care to the victims;
- iv. to publish the judgment and the official summary;
- v. to conduct a public act of acknowledgment of its international responsibility;
- vi. to make a documentary;
- vii. to take measures to provide access to education for one of the victims; and
- viii. to present draft legislation on human rights protection, related to the modification of an article of the General Disciplinary Code.

The victims who participated in the hearing were Luz Enith Franco Noreña and Henry Orlando Guzmán Medina, wife and brother of Mr. Guzmán Medina, respectively, and their representatives (Grupo Interdisciplinario por los Derechos Humanos - GIDH). Karin Mansel, advisor to the Executive Secretary of the Inter-American Commission also participated. The delegation on behalf of the State included authorities and officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (including the Director of Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law); the Presidential Advisor on Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law; the Ministry of Justice and Law; the Ministry of Information Technology and Communications; the RTVC System of Public Media; the Ministry of Health and Social Protection; the Ministry

of National Education; the Ministry of National Defense; the National Agency of Legal Defense of the State; the Attorney General's Office; Magistrates of the Special Jurisdiction for Peace; the Search Unit for Persons Presumed to be Disappeared (including the General Director); the National Institute of Legal Medicine and Forensic Sciences; the Government of Antioquia and the Mayor's Office of Medellín.



3. Hearing in the Case of Bedoya Lima et al.

In the Judgment issued in 2021, the State was found internationally responsible for the violation of the rights to personal integrity, personal liberty, protection of honor and dignity, and freedom of thought and expression to the detriment of the journalist Jineth Bedoya Lima, as a consequence of her kidnapping on May 25, 2000, which took place at the La Modelo Prison by paramilitaries, during which she endured physical and even sexual violence by several of her kidnappers. Moreover, the State was declared responsible for the violation of the rights to judicial guarantees, judicial protection and equal protection due to the lack of due diligence in the investigations of the facts, gender-based discrimination in those investigations and the violation of the reasonable term.

The hearing, held on September 10, sought to receive updated and detailed information from the State and the observations of the victims, their representatives and the Inter-American Commission (IACHR) on compliance with eight reparations, namely:

- i. to prioritize and continue the investigations necessary to identify, prosecute and, where appropriate, punish the remaining persons responsible for the acts of violence and torture that Jineth Bedoya suffered on May 25, 2000;
- ii. to prioritize and continue the investigations necessary to identify, prosecute and, where appropriate, punish the remaining persons responsible for the threats suffered by Ms. Bedoya before and after the facts of May 25, 2000, as well as those responsible for the attack on Jineth Bedoya and her mother, Luz Nelly Lima, on May 27, 1999;
- iii. to guarantee the dissemination of the transmedia program "No es hora de callar";
- iv. to create and implement a plan for training programs and raising awareness among government officials, security forces, and justice operators to ensure that they have the knowledge necessary to identify incidents and manifestations of gender-based

violence against women that affect women journalists; protect them when they are in danger; and investigate and prosecute the perpetrators;

- v. to establish the “Centro Investigativo No es Hora de Callar” center for the memory and dignity of all women victims of sexual violence within the framework of the armed conflict and investigative journalism, with specific recognition of the work of women journalists;
- vi. to design and implement a system for the collection of data and figures on cases of violence against journalists, as well as gender-based violence against women journalists;
- vii. to create a fund to finance programs aimed at prevention, protection, and support of women journalists who are victims of gender-based violence; and
- viii. to adopt measures to guarantee the life, personal integrity and security of the victims.

The victims who participated in the hearing included Jineth Bedoya Lima and Luz Nelly Lima, and their legal representatives (Center for Justice and International Law - CEJIL, and the Foundation for Freedom of the Press - FLIP). Karin Mansel, advisor to the Executive Secretary of the Inter-American Commission also participated. The delegation on behalf of the State included authorities and officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; the Presidential Advisor on Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law; the Presidential Advisor on Reconciliation; the Ministry of Equality and Equity; the Ministry of Justice and Law; the Ministry of National Defense; the Ministry of Information Technology and Communications; the Ministry of National Defense; the Ministry of Health and Social Protection; the Ministry of Finance and Public Credit; the Superior Judicial Council; the Attorney General's Office; the National Institute of Legal Medicine and Forensic Sciences; the RTVC System of Public Media; the Superior School of Public Administration (ESAP) and the National Protection Unit (including the General Director).



4. Hearing in the Case of Members and Militants of the Patriotic Union

In the judgment of 2022, the State was declared responsible for human rights violations to the detriment of six thousand members and militants of the Patriotic Union political party (Unión Patriótica) in Colombia, which took place in different parts of the country starting in 1984 and for over 20 years.

The hearing, held on September 10, sought to receive updated and detailed information from the State, and the observations of the common interveners of the victims' joint representatives and the Inter-American Commission (IACHR) on compliance with most of the reparations ordered in the judgment. Information was also received from the Commission to Confirm the identity and/or kinship of the victims listed in Annexes I, II and III of the judgment, in relation to the implementation of the measure ordered in operative paragraph 25 of the judgment.

Several victims and their next of kin participated in the hearing, along with the common interveners of the victims' representatives (Corporación Reiniciar, Centro Jurídico de Derechos Humanos, Derechos con Dignidad, and the representatives of the Díaz Mansilla family). Karin Mansel, advisor to the Executive Secretary of the Inter-American Commission also participated. On behalf of the State, the participants included authorities and officers from the National Agency of Legal Defense of the State (including the General Director and the Director of International Legal Defense); the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (including the Director of Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law); the Unit for Comprehensive Attention and Reparation of the Victims (including the Secretary General and the Reparations Director); the Search Unit for Persons Presumed to be Disappeared; Magistrates of the Special Jurisdiction for Peace; the Attorney General's Office; the Ministry of Health and Social Protection; Radio Televisión Nacional de Colombia (RTVC); the Ministry of Culture, Arts and Knowledge; the Ministry of the Interior; the National Protection Unit and the Ombudsman's Office. On behalf of the Commission to verify the identity and/or kinship of the victims listed in Annexes I, II, and III, of the judgment, Commissioners Ana Teresa Bernal Montañez, Alejandro Valencia Villa and Rubén Darío Pinilla Cogollo, the Secretary General and the Technical Secretary of that commission participated.



5. Hearing in the Case of Tabares Toro et al.

In the judgment of 2023, the State was found internationally responsible for the forced disappearance of the soldier Óscar Iván Tabares Toro, which took place on December 28, 1997.

The hearing, held on September 11, sought to receive updated and detailed information from the State and the observations of the victims, their representatives and the Inter-American Commission (IACHR) on compliance with six reparations, namely:

- i. to continue the investigations and the criminal proceedings for the forced disappearance of Óscar Iván Tabares Toro;
- ii. to intensify its efforts to locate Óscar Iván Tabares Toro;
- iii. to publish an official summary of the judgment in a national newspaper with widespread circulation;
- iv. to hold a public act of acknowledgment of its international responsibility;
- v. to make an audiovisual documentary on the forced disappearance of Óscar Iván Tabares Toro; and
- vi. to pay the amounts established in the Judgment as a measure of rehabilitation.

The victims María Elena Toro Torres and Leidy Julieth Gallego Toro, mother and sister of Mr. Tabares Toro, respectively; and their legal representatives (Comisión Colombiana de Juristas – CCJ) participated in the hearing. Karin Mansel, advisor to the Executive Secretary of the Inter-American Commission also participated. The State's delegation included authorities and officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (including the General Director and the Director of International Legal Defense); the Presidential Advisor on Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law; the National Agency of Legal Defense of the State; the Ministry of Health and Social Protection; the Ministry of Information Technology and Communications; the National Institute of Legal Medicine and Forensic Sciences; the Search Unit for Persons Presumed to be Disappeared; the Attorney General's Office and the RTVC System of Public Media.



6. Hearing in the Case of the Members of the “José Alvear Restrepo” Collective Lawyers Corporation (CAJAR)

In the judgment of 2023, the State was found responsible for several human rights violations to the detriment of members of the “José Alvear Restrepo” Collective Lawyers Corporation (CAJAR) and their next of kin, mainly related to arbitrary intelligence activities conducted by various public agencies in the 1990s and up to 2005, gathering and keeping personal information on the victims.

The hearing, held on September 11, sought to receive updated and detailed information from the State on compliance with the seventeen reparations ordered in the judgment, including the obligations: to investigate the acts of violence, threats, intimidation, and harassment against the victims, as well as the intelligence activities conducted by various public agencies in the 1990s, and, when applicable, prosecute and punish those responsible; to clear the intelligence archives; the rehabilitation measure, several measures of satisfaction and guarantees of non-repetition, and the payment of compensation for pecuniary and non-pecuniary damages.

Several victims in this case and the common interveners of the victims' representatives (from CAJAR and CEJIL, the representation of former female employees of CAJAR and Mr. Pedro Julio Mahecha Ávila) participated in the hearing. Karin Mansel, advisor to the Executive Secretary of the Inter-American Commission also participated. The State's delegation included authorities and officers from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (including the General Director and the Director of International Legal Defense); the National Agency of Legal Defense of the State; the Presidential Advisor on Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law; Magistrates of the Special Jurisdiction for Peace; the National Intelligence Directorate (including the National Intelligence Director); the Ministry of National Defense (including the Vice-Minister for Defense and Security Policies); the General National Archive (including the General Director); the Ministry of the Interior; the Ministry of Justice and Law; the Ministry of Health and Social Protection; the Ministry of Information Technology and Communications; the RTVC System of Public Media; the National Administrative Department of Statistics; the Administrative Department of the Public Function; the Attorney General's Office and the Superior School of Public Administration.



II. Activities and protocol meetings

1. Protocol meeting with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

On Thursday, September 11, Judge Ricardo C. Pérez Manrique, along with the delegation of the Registrar's Office of the I/A Court HR, held a protocol meeting with Rosa Yolanda Villavicencio Mapy, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Colombia. Also present at the meeting were Nelson Javier Restrepo Arango, Director of Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Ambassador of Colombia in Costa Rica, Carlos Rodríguez Mejía. During this meeting, Judge Pérez

Manrique, representing the I/A Court HR, thanked the State for its willingness and generous collaboration to perform the visit to monitor compliance with judgments in its territory. The Minister of Foreign Affairs, in turn, highlighted the State's commitment to compliance with the decision of the I/A Court HR in cases that are in the monitoring stage.



2. Protocol meeting with the Government body and Magistrates of the Special Jurisdiction for Peace

On Tuesday, September 9, Judge Ricardo C. Pérez Manrique, accompanied by the delegation of the Registrar's Office of the Court, met and spoke with the government body of the Special Jurisdiction for Peace (SJP) and other magistrates from that body. The importance of international human rights law and the conventional standards developed by the I/A Court HR were highlighted. Information on the general aspects of the functioning and jurisdiction of the SJP was also presented. They did not speak about specific cases in the monitoring compliance with judgment stage before the I/A Court HR. The Court also thanked the support and collaboration of the Special Jurisdiction for Peace to hold the hearings of monitoring compliance with judgment at its facilities for the third year in a row.



3. Protocol meeting with the President of the Constitutional Court of Colombia

On Wednesday, September 8, Judge Ricardo C. Pérez Manrique held a protocol meeting with Jorge Enrique Ibáñez Najar, President of the Constitutional Court of Colombia.



4. Protocol meeting with the Ombudswoman of Colombia

On Thursday, September 11, Judge Ricardo C. Pérez Manrique, along with the delegation of the Registrar's Office of the I/A Court HR, held a protocol meeting with Iris Marín Ortiz, Ombudswoman of Colombia. The Deputy Ombudsman and other officials of the Ombudsman's Office also participated in the meeting. The aim of the meeting was to strengthen cooperation on human rights, coordinate educational activities and highlight the important role of national human rights institutions in demanding compliance with the judgments of the I/A Court HR and disseminating the conventional standards for the protection of human rights.



5. Closing ceremony - International Human Rights Film Festival

On September 9, National Human Rights Day in Colombia, Judge Ricardo C. Pérez Manrique participated in the closing ceremony of the International Human Rights Film Festival. The event took place at the Sala Capital of the Cinemateca de Bogotá. At the event named "There is human power," the Judge of the I/A Court HR shared a panel with the Ombudswoman, Iris Marín Ortiz, and Arhuaca indigenous leader, Ati Quigua, which was moderated by the journalist and filmmaker Gloria Castrillón. We would like to thank the Rule of Law Program for Latin America of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation for the invitation made to the I/A Court HR to participate in this space.



The Inter-American Court of Human Rights would like to thank the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID) for its valuable support to hold this visit of monitoring compliance in the Republic of Colombia, in the framework of the institutional strengthening of the Court.



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