

Press Release

Inter-American Court of Human Rights

I/A Court H.R._PR-82/2022 English

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I/A Court H.R.

Protecting Rights

ECUADOR IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE EXTRAJUDICIAL EXECUTION OF TWO PERSONS AND FOR FAILING TO ADEQUATELY INVESTIGATE THE FACTS

San José, Costa Rica, November 21, 2022. In the Judgment notified today in the *Case of Huacón Baidal et al. v. Ecuador*, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights found the State of Ecuador internationally responsible for the violation of the right to life of Walter Gonzalo Huacón Baidal and Mercedes Eugenia Salazar Cueva, of their right to humane treatment and that of their next of kin, and of the rights to a fair trial and judicial protection of their next of kin: Mary del Pilar Chancay Quimis, Wilson Eduardo Huacón Baidal, Karent Lisset Huacón Chancay, Walther Bryan Huacón Chancay, Wilson Fabián Huacón Salazar, Karla Fernanda Huacón Salazar, Kerlly Mercedes Huacón Salazar, and William Huacón.

On June 14, 2022, the State and the victims reached a friendly settlement agreement, which included a full acknowledgment of international responsibility by Ecuador.

Consult the official summary of the Judgment [here](#) and the full text of the Judgment [here](#).

On the afternoon of March 31, 1997, Walter Huacón Baidal and Mercedes Salazar Cueva left a family reunion. When the former noticed a traffic checkpoint and realized that he had forgotten his driver's license and documents of the vehicle he was driving, he turned and drove on the wrong side of the road to return to his house. This led to two members of the Traffic Commission and four police officers chasing them. The state officers then fired at Mr. Huacón and Ms. Salazar, causing their death. Administrative and judicial proceedings were initiated as a result of these events. The criminal proceedings were held in the police criminal jurisdiction and five agents were dismissed. Charges were filed against the remaining officer, but he did not appear at the trial. The proceedings were suspended, and the crime was declared beyond the statute of limitations on October 11, 2012.

Due to these violations and considering the reparation measures agreed upon by the parties, the Court ordered the State: (a) to report annually, for five years, on the progress or limitations on the investigation of the events and prepare a report on the right to truth and evaluate, together with the victims, the possibility of keeping the investigations open; (b) carry out affirmative action measures for access to higher education institutions for various individuals indicated in the agreement; (c) publish the friendly settlement agreement and a summary thereof; (d) take the necessary steps to transfer the remains of Mr. Huacón Baidal and Ms. Salazar Cueva to the cemeteries indicated in the agreement; (e) hold a public act to offer public apologies to the next of kin of said persons, and (f) pay compensation for pecuniary and non-pecuniary damages.

The composition of the Court for the issue of this Judgment was as follows: Judge Ricardo C. Pérez Manrique, President (Uruguay), Judge Humberto Antonio Sierra Porto, Vice President (Colombia), Judge Eduardo Ferrer Mac-Gregor Poisot (Mexico), Judge Nancy López (Costa Rica), Judge Verónica Gomez (Argentina), Judge Patricia Pérez Goldberg (Chile) and Judge Rodrigo Mudrovitsch (Brazil).

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