

Press Release 85/2024 English

MEXICO IS INTERNATIONALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE FORCED DISAPPEARANCE OF ANTONIO GONZÁLEZ MÉNDEZ

San José, Costa Rica, December 12, 2024. - In the judgment in the *Case González Méndez et al. v. Mexico*, notified today, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights found Mexico internationally responsible for the forced disappearance committed to the detriment of Antonio González Méndez, as well as other human rights violations to the detriment of his next of kin: his wife, Zonia López Juárez, his daughters and son: Ana González López, Magdalena González López, Elma Talía González López and Gerardo González López.

The official summary and the full text of the judgment can be accessed [here](#).

The Court determined that the forced disappearance of Mr. González Méndez occurred in a context of violence in the state of Chiapas, which intensified in 1994 with the uprising of the Zapatista National Liberation Army (EZLN). Paramilitary groups acted under a counter-insurgency State policy, the "Plan Campaña Chiapas de 1994" (1994 Chiapas Campaign Plan). These groups operated with the support, tolerance and permission of the State to neutralize forces or organizations considered enemies, such as EZLN.

The victim, a Maya Ch'ol indigenous person, was a member of the civilian support groups for the EZLN and was a sympathizer of the Democratic Revolution Party (PRD). He was last seen near the area where the paramilitary group "Paz y Justicia" (Peace and Justice) operated. There are indications that the last person he had contact with was affiliated with that group. Based on this and other elements, the Court determined the State's responsibility for the disappearance of Mr. González Méndez.

The Court accepted the partial acknowledgment of responsibility made by the State regarding the lack of an adequate investigation of the facts and the effects on the personal integrity of the next of kin of Mr. González Méndez.

The Court determined that the domestic authorities have not complied with the obligations to investigate the facts diligently and within a reasonable term and have not performed an adequate search for the whereabouts of Antonio González Méndez.

The Court also concluded that what occurred caused distress and suffering to the next of kin of Mr. González Méndez, including three girls and one boy, which affected their mental and moral integrity as well as their life projects.

Thus, the Inter-American Court declared that Mexico violated, to the detriment of Mr. González Méndez, the rights to juridical personality, life, personal integrity, personal liberty, freedom of association (Articles 3, 4(1), 5(1), 5(2), 7(1) and 16 of the American Convention, in relation to Articles 1(1) and 2 thereof, and Article I(a) of the Inter-American Convention on the Forced Disappearance of Persons). It declared that the State infringed the right to judicial guarantees and judicial protection to the detriment of Mr. González Méndez and his next of kin (Articles 8(1) and 25(1) of the American Convention, in relation to Articles 1(1) and 2 thereof, and Article I(b) of the Inter-American Convention on the Forced Disappearance of Persons). It also violated the right to the truth (Articles 8(1), 13(1) and 25(1) of the American Convention, in relation to Article 1(1) thereof), to personal integrity and rights of the family, to the detriment of the next of kin of the disappeared person (Articles 5(1) and 17 of the American Convention, in relation to Article 1(1) thereof), and the rights of the child (Article 19 of the American Convention, in relation to Article 1(1) thereof), to the detriment of his daughters and son.

Due to these violations, the Court ordered the State, among other reparation measures, to continue the investigations on the forced disappearance and the actions to search for Antonio González Méndez. The State must also implement a permanent education program on the adequate investigation and prosecution of alleged facts of forced disappearance of persons for agents from the State of Chiapas and create, if it has not done so, a single and updated register of disappeared persons, to help identify cases of forced disappearance.

Judges Rodrigo Mudrovitsch and Ricardo C. Pérez Manriquez disclosed their joint partially dissenting opinion.

The Court's composition for the issuing of this judgment was as follows: Judge Nancy Hernández López, President (Costa Rica); Judge Rodrigo Mudrovitsch, Vice-President (Brazil); Judge Humberto Antonio Sierra Porto (Colombia); Judge Ricardo C. Pérez Manrique (Uruguay); Judge Verónica Gómez (Argentina) and Judge Patricia Pérez Goldberg (Chile). Judge Eduardo Ferrer Mac-Gregor Poisot, of Mexican nationality, did not participate in the processing of this case or deliberation and signing of this judgment, in conformity with Articles 19(1) and 19(2) 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 Danniell 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](#).